

DELHI Timings

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11			
RISE	06:04	SET	18:31
RISE	17:11	SET	03:19
THURSDAY, SEPT. 12			
RISE	06:04	SET	18:30
RISE	17:47	SET	04:12
FRIDAY, SEPT. 13			
RISE	06:05	SET	18:29
RISE	18:21	SET	05:06

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	37	28
Safdarjang	37	28
Palam	38	27

Delhi Palam Today
37°C A hazy and humid morning. Day will be dry and very warm with partly cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
37°C A humid and slight uneasy morning. Day will be very warm with partly cloudy sky.

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THE HINDU

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	137	Gurgaon	132
Ghaziabad	135	Faridabad	100
Noida	180	Greater Noida	202
Good	Satisfactory	Moderate	
0-50	51-100	101-200	
Poor	Very poor	Severe	
201-300	301-400	>401	

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY
(COVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

University notice to JNUSU election panel

Lists 10 violations it detected during poll process

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Grievance Redressal Cell (GRC) of Jawaharlal Nehru University has sent a notice to the poll panel, which was set up to conduct elections for the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU), informing the committee that it had violated several poll guidelines.

The GRC has been constituted as per the recommendations of the Lyngdoh Committee (LC) and Supreme Court (SC) guidelines.

Reply by today

In the notice issued by GRC chairperson Umesh Kadam, the panel has been asked to submit a reply to a list of 10 guidelines (as laid down by the LC and the SC) that were allegedly violated during the elections.

The panel has been asked to furnish relevant documents in support of its defence by September 11.

The JNUSU elections were held on September 6. The counting was done on September 8, but the results will not be released till September 17 as per orders of the Delhi High Court. The poll panel, however, had re-



JNU administration block

leased trends on the day counting ended.

In the notice, the GRC said that the JNUSU elections were not conducted as per the JNUSU constitution.

It also accused the panel of not giving representation to all schools/special centres, and violating LC guidelines by having the election process (from filing of nominations, which started on August 26, to declaration of results, which were to be released on September 8) exceeded 10 days.

It also said that the final list of candidates was finalised and published without verifying the record of candidates with the Proctor's office and other disciplinary authorities.

The poll panel did not reply to queries from the media

regarding how they were going to respond to the notice. Several students' organisations, however, accused the administration of trampling on the mandate of students by accusing the poll panel of malpractices.

Students defend panel

"The JNU administration is continuing its attack on members of the JNUSU poll committee. The panel had from the beginning resisted interference of the administration and performed its task with dedication, determination and hard work," stated the All India Students' Association in a release.

"We stand with the JNUSU poll panel, which handled the situation with remarkable resilience, just like last year when they faced violence and intimidation. We condemn the notices and summons issued against the panel members. We demand that JNU revoke the notices and give an unconditional apology," it stated.

The High Court is scheduled to hear a petition filed by two students over a JNUSU election-related issue on September 17.

Inside the Walled City



A tazia procession to mark Muharram at the Jama Masjid on Tuesday. •SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Canvassing ends, DUSU elections tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Canvassing for the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections officially came to a stop at 8 p.m. on Tuesday. The voting is scheduled for Thursday with counting of votes to begin on Friday at

8.30 a.m.

A notification instructing all officials to ensure that no canvassing takes place was issued by DU Chief Election Officer Ashok Prasad.

On Wednesday, Electronic Voting Machines will be delivered to colleges across the

university.

Votes will be recorded on Thursday for college unions as well as the DUSU.

Counting will take place on Friday at the community hall in Police Lines at King'sway Camp.

To ensure no fake certifi-

cates are submitted by candidates, the CEO has asked colleges to only forward names of nominees after verification.

Last year, it was revealed that the elected presidential candidate had a fake degree certificate.

Students to join campaign against single-use plastic

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has directed all schools under the Directorate of Education to heed the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to put an end to single-use plastic.

In a circular, the DoE directed all heads of schools

to sensitise students, teachers and staff against using single-use plastic.

In his Independence Day speech, the PM had urged the nation to make India free of single-use plastic, which harms the environment, read the circular, which urged students to join the nation-wide campaign.

Over four lakh PUCs issued in Capital since September 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Vehicle owners in Delhi are making a beeline for pollution under check (PUC) certification centres since the implementation of the amended Motor Vehicles Act on September 1, with over four lakh such certificates been issued since the begin-

ning of the month.

An average of 50,000 vehicles have undergone the test daily this month as opposed to 10,000 before the new law came into force. Under the new Act, penalty for not having a PUC certificate is ₹10,000.

Earlier, the fine was ₹1,000 for the first violation.

Social media lauds Miranda House students for telling ABVP to 'go back'

Students say they were protesting culture of 'hooliganism'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

"ABVP go back" shouted several students of Miranda House College when members of the students' group attempted to present their manifesto at the institute's auditorium on Monday.

Video footage of the event went viral on social media with several Twitter users lauding the students.

The slogannering was in protest against the ABVP's hooliganism and violence, regularly perpetrated on campus, said Shreya, a second-year student who was present at the venue.

"The RSS-backed ABVP stands against secular ideas of a free society and is engaged in spreading a Hindu ideology that students are against," she said.

Reacting to some people criticising the students for not allowing the ABVP to

have their say, Shreya said: "We listen to them every time but we do not want to hear them out any more."

'A sort of tradition'

Other students said that heckling the ABVP and the NSUI, the two dominant parties in the DUSU elections, had become a bit of a tradition in the college.

"It started in 2017 after the violence that took place at Ramjas College," said a third-year student of B.A. Political Science, who wished to remain anonymous. At the time, students had raised questions regarding ABVP's alleged involve-

ment in the incident.

Similarly, last year, when the NSUI came to the college to present its manifesto, their candidates were also heckled, students said.

Video footage from that event also showed members of the Left group AISA being received with slogans of "go back AISA", albeit in a relatively smaller capacity.

Sign of intolerance: ABVP

Responding to the incident, ABVP State secretary, Sidharth Yadav said: "The truth of Left organisations come to light when they try to curb differing voices and show their resistance towards other ideologies. The ABVP believes in debate and dissent and such shallow act by a handful of commies in Miranda House is nothing but a reflection of their intolerance. We will receive huge votes from Miranda House."



Students under the banner of Pinjra Tod protest against violence on campus.

•SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Night march against DUSU elections

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Women students of Delhi University, under the banner of the Pinjra Tod collective, undertook a 'night march' in North Campus on Monday against the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections.

Terming electoral politics on campus a realm of "hooliganism and violence", the group had lashed out at the ABVP and NSUI, the dominant parties on campus.

'Masculine aggression'

It had argued that the elections are fought on freebies and displays of "masculine aggression", while agendas are missing.

Holding placards deriding the elections and calling for the need to take up 'real issues', the women marched from the Arts Faculty to Vijaynagar via Hudson Lane.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NO.: EL/50/NIT/04
(2019-20), Date: 05.09.2019

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General), West Central Railway, Kota for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites E-tenders for following work: (1) Tender No.: EL/50/36/2019-20 Description of Work: Kota Division: Off Trade (Top portion & Battery maintenance) of passenger train No. 12059/12060, 19803/19804, 19805/19806, 19807/19808, 19809/19810, 22981/22982, 22983/22984, 59821/59822, 59811/59814 and 59831/59834 for a period of three years. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 2,07,53,288.64/- Cost of tender form: ₹ 10,000/- Earnest Money: ₹ 2,53,800/- Completion Period: 03 Years Date & Time for submission and opening: Submission on 01.10.2019 upto 15.00 hrs. and opening at 15.15 hrs. The offer will be accepted only through E-Tendering on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in/>. The bidders should have class III digital signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. No tender is accepted manually. Please read tender terms & conditions before the tendering.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) West Central Railway, Kota

During Rail Journey, Dial 138 for general complaints & Dial 182 for security complaints

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL FORUM: GURGAON

No. 355/

Dated 06-09-2019

CANCELLATION OF EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public that the office of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Gurugram invited applications for recruitment of two posts of peon and one post of process server through advertisement appeared in newspapers Dainik Jagran (in Hindi version) and The Hindu (in English version) of both dated 22.08.2019 and the interview for the said posts is fixed for 09.09.2019 at 10.00 A.M. in the aforesaid office. Now, in compliance of the order dated 05.09.2019 passed by the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh in CWP No. 24596 of 2019, titled Sahil Yadav Vs. State of Haryana and Others, the said interview scheduled on 09.09.2019 stands cancelled till further notice. All candidates who applied for these posts may note.

Superintendent,
District Consumer Disputes
Redressal Forum, Gurgaon

PRDH 78592

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Jawali Division HP PWD Jawali on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

S.No. 1:-

Name of work:- Construction of Giran Khad Nodikut Jarpal upper Amlela to Amlela Joining Amlela Ghar Jarot road Km. 0/0 to 5/500/Phase-III Km. 3/665 to 5/500/under Nabard RIDF-XXV (SH-C/O 5/7 mtr wide formation cutting, Passing places, Retaining walls, Cross Drainage works, Providing and laying GSB, WBM II & III, Tarring work side drains and parapets in Km. 3/665 to 5/500).

Estimated cost(₹s):-20305264/-

Starting date for downloading Bid:- 03.10.2019

Earnest money:-235500/-

Deadline for submission of Bid:- 25.10.2019,

Time limit:- One year,

Cost of tender:- 5000/-,

Eligible class of Contractor:- A class

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the Department website www.hptenders.gov.in opened on 26.10.2019.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jawali Divn. HP PWD
Jawali- 176023
Telephone No. 01893264186
e-mail ee-jaw-hp@nic.in
For on behalf of Governor of H.P.

HIM SUCHANA
AVAN JAN SAMPARK
HP/1912/19-20

Information and Public Relations Department Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Information and Public Relations Department, Govt. of Jharkhand intends to invite Bid for Operation, Maintenance and Management (OMM) of their existing LED Display Board installed in different cities of Jharkhand State. The details Bid/Tender document may be downloaded from the office website - prdjharkhand.in.

Last date of submission of Tender is 26.09.2019 3.00 PM (Suchana Bhawan, Mayer's Road, Ranchi, Jharkhand)

The Opening of Bid will be at 4.00 PM on the same day.

Pre-Bid meeting on 20.09.2019 at 4 PM at Suchana Bhawan, Meur's Road, Ranchi.

The undersigned reserved the right of amendment, addendum or even cancel the above Bid.

Director

PR 216511 (IPRD)19-20#D IPRD, Govt. of Jharkhand

जिसे अब तक ना समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

Defacement of Public Property



Is A Punishable Offence

Defacement of public property is punishable u/s 3 of The Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act 2007 with One year's imprisonment | Fine up to ₹ 50,000/-

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 100

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DUTA opposes attack on ‘individual freedom’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Delhi University Teachers’ Association (DUTA) on Tuesday condemned the “arbitrary use of instruments of the state” to intimidate dissent in reference to search operation at the residence of Hany Babu, an associate professor at the university. Mr. Babu has been teaching at the university for over a decade and has been a participant in struggles for academic freedom, democratic rights, and social justice, the union said. “Such raids without search warrants are against the very essence of democracy, individual freedom,” the group said. They also demanded an end to such “blatantly threatening postures towards voices of dissent and democracy”.

Elgaar Parishad case: police search DU prof’s Noida home

No arrests made, only a few electronic devices seized, says investigating officer

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE
A team of the Pune police on Tuesday conducted searches at the residence of academic activist Hany Babu M.T. in Noida in connection with the Elgaar Parishad case, said officials. The team comprised Assistant Commissioner of Police (Swargate division) Shivaji Pawar, the investigating officer in the case; Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Bachchan Singh; and others. Mr. Pawar said no arrests had been made so far and that the police had seized some electronic devices. He said the search was conducted as per the FIR registered at the Vishrambaug police station (in January last) under Sections 153 (a) (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of reli-



Associate Prof. Hany Babu M.T. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

gion, race etc), 505 1 (b) among others in connection with the ‘Elgaar Parishad’ held at Pune’s Shaniwarwada Fort on December 31, 2017, as part of the bicentenary celebrations of the Bhima-Koregaon battle. Mr. Babu’s wife Jenny Rowena alleged that the police searched their house for nearly six hours without a warrant and took away his laptop, mobile phone and

pen drives along with other articles. A Facebook post by her read: “Today, the Pune police entered our house at 6.30 in the morning. They said that Hany Babu (my husband) who teaches at Delhi University English Department, is involved in the Bhima Koregaon case and for this they could search the house without a search warrant. They searched the house for up to six hours, took three books and his laptop, phone, hard disks and pen drives. They just left now. [sic]” Noida Police Public Relations Officer said they are not authorised to speak on the matter. Mr. Babu, an associate professor at Delhi University, is also the coordinator of the ‘Alliance of Social Justice’ and a member of the ‘Joint Action Front’ for Demo-

cratic Education’. He was also a member of the ‘Committee for the Defense and Release of Dr. G.N. Saibaba’, which had condemned the rejection of permanent bail to the incarcerated DU academic accused of having Maoist links. Advocate Surendra Gadling, who was the defence counsel for professor Saibaba, was arrested on June 6 last year by the Pune police along with four others, including Dalit publisher Sudhir Dhawale, Nagpur University professor Shoma Sen and activists Mahesh Raut and Rona Wilson for their alleged links with the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) and their role in the ‘Elgaar Parishad’ and the Bhima-Koregaon clashes. (With inputs from Hemani Bhandari)

Labourer gets trapped inside ditch during DJB work, rescued

Part of the 10-ft-deep pit collapsed, critically injuring victim

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A 40-year-old labourer got trapped in a pit while repairing a Delhi Jal Board pipeline in north-east Delhi’s Shastri Nagar on Tuesday morning, the police said. Tabrez from Bihar was rescued by fire service personnel and rushed to a hospital where he is undergoing treatment, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East) R.P. Meena. The police said that a PCR call was received at 10.23 a.m. and the caller informed them that a man had fallen into a pit at Zero Pushta Road where DJB pipeline repair work was under way. Delhi Fire Service officials were alerted and they rushed to the spot. They rescued him after which he was rushed to Jag

We are not sure whether they had safety equipment or not but it will come up in the investigation

DINESH MOHANIYA
DJB vice-chairman

Pravesh Chandra Hospital. The doctors told the police that the victim was critically injured following which he was referred to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital.

Under the debris
During inquiry, the police were informed that a few labourers were working inside a pit for some repair work. “In the meantime, a part of the 10-feet deep pit collapsed and debris fell on the victim. Soon after this, he fell unconscious,” Mr. Meena said.

A case under Sections 288 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered based on Tabrez’s brother Aslam’s complaint and investigation is under way. Aslam allegedly told the police that the labourers were not wearing any safety gear at that time. DJB vice-chairman Dinesh Mohaniya said: “The workers were repairing a leakage in the water pipeline and were working under a contractor. At this point, we are not sure whether they had safety equipment or not but it will come up in the investigation. We are also exploring the possibility of giving compensation to the family of the worker.”

They took books related to Maoist, Left ideology: professor

Hany Babu alleges that when he asked for a search warrant, the officers said they did not need one

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI
A team of Pune police searched the residence of Delhi University’s Associate Professor Hany Babu M.T. in Noida’s Sector 78 at 6.30 a.m. on Tuesday allegedly without a warrant. Mr. Babu told *The Hindu* that the officers were particularly interested in his books and seized four of them, all of which were related to “Maoist and Left ideology”. “They saw all the books, which were on varied subjects like terrorism, Kashmir, Dalit issues and more. They would take a look and put them back. But if they found any book related to Maoist and Left ideology, they kept

I asked them if they were trying to project that I am supporting Maoist ideology by taking the books. They said I should not ask anything

HANY BABU M.T.
Associate Professor at DU

it aside,” he said. Recalling the morning, the professor said around 20 officers, including eight from Pune Police and the rest local officers, came to his residence and said they wanted to conduct a search in connection with the Elgar Parishad case registered in Pune’s Vishrambaug police

station in 2017. When Mr. Babu asked for a search warrant, the police allegedly told him that it was not required.

Passwords changed
The professor said the officers told him that he was, so far, only a suspect and so they were not arresting him. “During the search, they took my laptop, hard disks, pen drives and mobile phone. The laptop and hard disks contain my research work, which I have been doing for years. I don’t understand how the government agency can seize my work without telling me the reasons behind it,” he said. He added that the passwords of his email IDs and

mobile phones were changed and he was told that he cannot access them till the investigation is over. Out of the four books the police took, two were published by the defense committee in DU professor G.N. Saibaba case, he said. Saibaba was convicted on charges of having Maoist links. “They took Jawaharlal Nehru University Scholar Naveen Babu’s MPhil dissertation titled ‘Varna to Jati’ and another book titled ‘Understanding Maoists’ by N. Venugopal,” he said. “I have so many books on human rights as I participate in such movements. I asked them if they were trying to project that I am supporting

Maoist ideology by taking the books. They said I should not ask anything and that they will take whatever is required for the probe,” he said. Mr. Babu said it’s a larger scheme to intimidate activists and people who speak up for rights. **No contact allowed** “Since I have also been involved in the Saibaba committee and other similar movements, the State wants to oppress me,” he said. The professor claimed that his daughter was not allowed to go to school as the search was under way and that the family wasn’t allowed to call friends or lawyers.

‘Unwell’ tiger attacks animal keeper at zoo

Victim suffered minor injuries on his hand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
An animal keeper was on Tuesday morning attacked by an “unwell and distressed” Bengal tiger in the Delhi zoo when he went to fill a water bowl for the feline, said officials. Zoo curator Riyaz Khan said the incident happened at 5 a.m. and zoo-keeper Fateh Singh suffered minor injuries on his right hand. He has been discharged from Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. Mr. Singh was on the night shift and had gone to fill the tiger’s water bowl

when the animal pounced on him. The eight-year-old tiger, Rama, is said to be unwell. A team of doctors from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute in Bareilly and zoo director Renu Singh had examined the animal late on Monday night, Mr. Khan said. “Late night inspection [in the small hours of Tuesday] may have rattled the tiger,” he said, adding: The tiger was brought from the Mysore zoo in 2014. He has been unwell since July 27 and has not been eating enough.”

Duo on bike killed on Yamuna e-way

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA
Two men died on Tuesday after their speeding motorcycle hit a railing on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida and fell into a 30-foot-deep ditch, the police said. The incident took place at 9 a.m. when Gaurav Chauhan (45), and Pallav Gaur (32), reached Zero Point, the police said. “Gaurav from Aligarh and Pallav who belonged to Agra, both worked at a private company in Noida,” said Station House Officer Knowledge Park Arvind Pathak said.

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CM
YK

A ND-NDE

Oppn. cries foul as Punjab govt. appoints 6 MLAs as advisers to CM

AAP says move an attempt to bypass constitutional cap; warns of legal action

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

The decision of the Punjab government to appoint six Congress legislators as Minister-rank advisers to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has come under severe criticism from the Opposition parties, which on Tuesday accused the government of overburdening the State exchequer.

Five of the MLAs appointed by the government are in the rank and status of Cabinet Minister while one is in the rank and status of Minister of State.

Demand for withdrawal

Leader of the Opposition and Aam Aadmi Party MLA Harpal Singh Cheema warned that if the decision is not immediately withdrawn, the party will explore legal remedies as the move is an attempt to “bypass the constitutional cap on the size of the State Cabinet”.

“When Punjab is already



Chief Minister Amarinder Singh being presented with a sword by Shiromani Akali Dal leader Upinderjit Kaur at Gurdwara Sri Ber Sahib in Kapurthala on Tuesday. ■PTI

struggling with huge debt burden, giving Cabinet Minister-level amenities to MLAs will bring great loss to the public exchequer,” he said.

“We are exploring legal remedies if the State government does not immediately take its decision back,” added Mr. Cheema.

The five MLAs in Cabinet Minister-rank are Kushaldeep

Dhillon (Faridkot), Amrinder Raja Warring (Gidderbaha), Sangat Singh Gilzian (Umar), Inderbir Bolaria (Amritsar) and Kuljit Nagra (Fatehgarh Sahib). Tarsem Singh (Attari) has been accorded the rank of Minister of State.

The Shiromani Akali Dal also condemned the Congress government for burdening the State exchequer.

Former Minister Bikram Singh Majithia said “it seems the Congress is trying to save its government from collapse and has in this process decided to fritter away the scarce resources of the State to its partymen”.

“With the latest addition, the total number of political appointees in the State government have risen to 26. What’s the logic of the move except to fatten its legislators at the exchequer’s expense,” said Mr. Majithia.

BJP’s national secretary Tarun Chugh told reporters that the decision was an attempt to circumvent the Constitution (91st Amendment) Act, 2003. Mr. Chugh said that under the law, the strength of Ministers cannot exceed 15% of the total members of the House. With Punjab Assembly having 117 MLAs, the maximum strength of the Council of Ministers can be 18, and including the CM, the State already has 17 Ministers.

Chinmayanand case: SIT sleuths search woman’s hostel room

Team spends six hours looking for evidence on rape charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR (U.P.)

Members of a Special Investigation Team here on Tuesday searched the hostel room of the student who has accused BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand of raping and “physically exploiting” her for a year.

The SIT members, accompanied by forensic experts, spent nearly six hours at the hostel room to collect evidence in connection with her allegations against the former Union Minister, college sources said.

The student and her family members accompanied the SIT members during the search, they said.

The team, which reached the hostel around noon, remained there till 5.45 pm, examining the postgraduate student’s belongings. After the search, the room was locked and sealed.

The SIT, headed by Inspector General Naveen Aroora, was set up by the Uttar Pradesh government on a



Swami Chinmayanand

Supreme Court directive.

The college principal said though the room in which the student was staying was meant for two people, but she lived there alone.

No rape case yet

Police sources said no rape case was registered till Tuesday evening against Mr. Chinmayanand after she lodged a zero FIR in New Delhi. The woman appeared before the press on Monday, alleging that the BJP leader had raped her, and also “physically exploited” her for one year.

She told mediapersons

that the Shahjahanpur police were reluctant to register a rape case against the 72-year-old former MP.

“On Sunday, the SIT quizzed me for about 11 hours. I told them about the rape. Even after telling them everything, they have not arrested Chinmayanand yet,” she said.

She alleged that when her father lodged a complaint with the police here about her physical exploitation, Shahjahanpur District Magistrate Indra Vikram Singh “issued threats”, asking him to file “a missing complaint” instead.

“I have all the proof. The hostel room where I lived has been sealed. It should be opened in front of the media,” she said, adding that she would give the proof, including video clips, at an opportune time.

“He (Chinmayanand) has ruined lives of many girls. I am the only one to muster the courage and stand up,” she added.

Action against IIT teacher over ‘inappropriate conduct’ plaint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KANPUR

A foreign girl student levelled allegations of “inappropriate conduct” against a faculty member, prompting the IIT-Kanpur to remove him immediately from his teaching responsibilities, the institute said on Tuesday.

“Last week, a complaint was filed by a girl student against a faculty member for inappropriate conduct,” the premier institution said in a statement here. “The internal complaints committee of the institute started investigations under the the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act following the Supreme Court guidelines.”

“Immediately, on recommendations of the panel, the faculty member was removed from teaching responsibilities of the course in which the girl student was registered,” the institute said.

5 INLD MLAs disqualified from Haryana Assembly

Four leaders have joined JJP, one BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Five legislators of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), four of whom switched sides to the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and one to the BJP, were disqualified on Tuesday as members of the Haryana Assembly under the anti-defection law by Speaker Kanwar Pal.

The decision has come just a month ahead of the Assembly polls in Haryana.

Those disqualified include Dabwali MLA Naina Singh Chautala, wife of Ajay Singh Chautala and mother of JJP leader Dushyant Chautala. The other legislators are Anoop Dhanak (Uklana), Rajdeep Phogat (Dadri), Pir-

thi Singh (Narwana) and Naseem Ahmad (Ferozepur Jhirka).

INLD leaders Balwan Singh and Abhay Singh Chautala had filed petitions before the Speaker seeking disqualification of the five MLAs under the anti-defection law.

While Mr. Pirchi, Mr. Rajdeep, Ms. Naina and Mr. Dhanak joined the JJP, Mr. Ahmad first switched over to the Congress and later came to the BJP fold.

Since the split in the INLD last year and the formation of the JJP, both parties are going through a rough phase with some of their leaders joining the opposite camp. (With PTI inputs)

Violence mars Muharram procession in M.P.’s Shajapur

At least three two-wheelers set on fire, say police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAJAPUR (M.P.)

Violence and arson marred a Muharram procession in Shajapur in Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred late night on Monday when stones were hurled in the direction of the procession in Nathwada area of the city.

Amid pandemonium, some people set at least three two-wheelers on fire, prompting the police to use mild force to disperse the mob, said Shajapur Superintendent of Police Pankaj Shrivastava.

Details of injuries to anybody, if any, are not available.



A Muharram procession in Bhopal on Tuesday. ■A.M. FARUQUI

The procession was held peacefully after the police brought the situation under control.

A case of arson and rioting has been registered against

unidentified persons and investigation is on, the SP said.

The police held a series of meetings with various groups on Tuesday to ensure that peace prevails in the city.

Man gets himself killed for insurance payout to kin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

A man in Rajasthan’s Bhilwara district got himself murdered so that his family members could claim ₹50 lakh insurance he had bought and spend the rest of their life in comfort.

Balbir Kharol (38), a moneylender, took the bizarre decision not because he was debt-ridden, but because he failed to recover money from people who had taken loans from him, according to police.

The two accused, Rajvir Singh and Sunil Yadav, who were arrested on Monday for killing Kharol, revealed during interrogation that the moneylender was initially considering to orchestrate his death in an accident but was doubtful he might survive, Superintendent of Police Harendra Mahawar said on Tuesday.

“This is a very unusual thing, but this is what the murder accused have revealed,” the SP said.

Kharol had lent nearly ₹20 lakh to different people but was unable to recover the amount. For the last six months, he did not receive any payment, Mr. Mahawar said. He then planned his own murder so that his family can get the insured amount and lead an easy life, the officer said.

Kharol had bought the insurance policy from a private bank a month ago and paid the first premium. He then hired Singh and Yadav and promised to pay them ₹80,000 for executing the murder, the SP said. The accused were arrested on the basis of Kharol’s call details and a CCTV footage.

Finance Commission assures of action on Rajasthan’s demands

There will be no injustice to the State, says N.K. Singh

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The 15th Finance Commission has assured of action on the Rajasthan government’s demand for additional funds with the sympathetic consideration of factors such as difficult geography, heterogeneous society, limited resources and future needs. The commission completed its four-day visit to the State on Monday.

Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh said the State government had worked in several fields, such as health, education, drinking water and renewable energy in the last eight months. He said though the State had its own set of problems, the commission was satisfied with the priority accorded to solar and renewable energy.

“We will certainly have sympathy for Rajasthan and



Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh

there will be no injustice,” Mr. Singh said.

CM’s demands

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has affirmed that the State government ensured effective financial management of its resources and complied with the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act despite the huge debt pressure on the exchequer.

Mr. Gehlot demanded ad-

ditional funds for drinking and irrigation water, education and health facilities, development of roads, energy, information technology and tourism sectors. He also said the share of States in Central taxes should be increased from 42% to 50% in view of the mandatory expenditure on the subjects allocated to them and the amount spent on the services being provided.

The Chief Minister said the Centre should compensate the States by 2024-25 for the deficit incurred by the latter for not increasing the revenue generated from GST. While seeking the States’ share in the cess and surcharge imposed by the Centre, Mr. Gehlot requested the Finance Commission to recommend that the States be given share in the Union government’s non-tax revenue as well.

Rain havoc



A portion of an old two-storeyed building collapsed in Bhopal’s busy Marwari Road area amid heavy rain on Tuesday. No one was injured in the incident as part of the structure, in which four families stayed, stood intact. ■PTI

Unemployment data incorrect, no one losing jobs, says Nityanand Rai

‘Improving infrastructure, big companies investing in various sectors, crores of people taking loans under MUDRA scheme point to job creation’



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai addressing a press meet in Bhopal on Tuesday. ■A.M. FARUQUI

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Amid reports of growing unemployment and a hobbling economy, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Tuesday said unemployment figures were incorrect and no one was losing jobs.

Speaking to reporters in Bhopal, he said, “The infrastructure is improving, big companies are investing in various sectors, agricultural production has improved and crores of people are taking loans under the MUDRA

scheme. This shows employment is increasing.”

Asserting that the country was on the path towards becoming a five trillion-dollar economy, he said, “There are some areas that need to be worked on and the government is making efforts to improve the situation. The country’s economy is strong and will continue to be.”

Chandrayaan-2 success

As for the Chandrayaan-2 mission, he said, everyone was praising its success. “While all the other coun-

tries have focused on the north pole of the moon, India tried to land its lander near the south pole. Just when lander Vikram was 2.1 km away from the surface, it lost connection and there were hurdles in communication.”

Despite this, he added, that the orbiter was continuing to send signals back and would provide several photographs of the moon and new information. “Our scientists, with readiness and precision, have tried their best for the success of Chandrayaan-2.”

As regards the Centre’s de-

cision to reopen investigations in seven anti-Sikh riot cases, one allegedly involving Chief Minister Kamal Nath, Mr. Rai said: “People who are not accused, must not be scared. The SIT will do its own investigation.”

On a query whether the Centre would do anything about the States, including Madhya Pradesh, that have refused to implement the new Motor Vehicles Act, he appealed to them to implement it for the sake of people’s safety. “You may have noticed the number of fines

in the past two-three days have come down. This is because people are understanding it is for their safety. It is not about the Centre or the States, but about everyone’s safety,” he said.

Stating that the dilution of Article 370 had strengthened the country’s unity, he said, “In the name of progress, several crores of rupees were sent to Jammu and Kashmir, yet it stayed away from development. Now, it’s united with the mainstream India and will not face terrorism anymore.”

Experts survey buildings damaged due to metro work

Shifted 686 affected residents, says Kolkata metro official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

International experts engaged by the Kolkata Metro Railway Corporation Ltd on Tuesday surveyed some of the damaged buildings in Bowbazar, several of which have crumbled owing to severe ground loss in the area caused by puncturing of an aquifer during tunnel boring work for the East-West Metro corridor.

A senior KMRCL official said a five-member team surveyed the damaged buildings which are in a precarious condition and have to be de-



Some of the damaged buildings in the Bowbazar area in Kolkata. •PTI

molished and the lesser damaged houses that can be repaired.

"The experts surveyed 11 buildings on Tuesday and

this will continue till all the houses in the affected area are checked for stability and other factors," the official said.

"We have shifted 686 residents of the affected buildings to hotels till Monday," KMRCL general manager, administration, A.K. Nandy said.

People have been evacuated from around 60 houses.

The Kolkata metro, which has promised to repair or rebuild the damaged houses in the area, has started disbursing ₹5 lakh compensation to each of the displaced families.

Jumbo meal



A herd of wild elephants from the nearby Rani Forest Reserve feed on water hyacinths in the wetlands at Deepor Beel on the outskirts of Guwahati on Tuesday. •PTI

Cuttack traffic police launch awareness drive

CORRESPONDENT
CUTTACK

A day after the Odisha government decided on a three-month moratorium on levying hefty fines as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act-2019, the Cuttack traffic police were on Tuesday seen spreading awareness about traffic rules.

Taking the help of cine stars, the policemen distributed flowers, chocolates and 'Thank You' cards to two-wheeler riders and light motor vehicle drivers, who wore helmets and tied their safety belts. "We have decided to augment the awareness drive," said ACP (City Traffic) Sagarika Nath.

At many places, the traffic policemen were seen collecting pre-September 1 fine (the amended Act came into operation on September 1 this year) from those two-wheeler riders who were travelling without helmets. The violators who paid fines were, however, given free helmets, Ms. Nath said. The MV Act is not a revenue generating exercise. Safety of the people is our objective," she said.

During the grace period, the police have been focusing on five aspects like drunken driving, use of mobile phones during driving, driving on the wrong side of roads, triple riding and non-usage of helmets and seat belts.

Minister P.N. Behera said transport offices will remain open on holidays.

Armed with the new law, traffic policemen were also seen behaving rudely with traffic violators. For their "unbecoming" attitude, the policemen at many places also faced public ire.

(With PTI inputs)

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Boy killed in roof collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALDA

A boy was killed and three children and a woman were critically injured in a roof collapse in West Bengal's Malda district, the police said. The incident occurred at Noorpur Dakshin Mondal Para village on Monday night.

"The victims were watching a Muharram procession from an under-construction building. Suddenly, a section of it collapsed, causing severe injuries to the five people beneath it. While one person died in hospital, the remaining four are critical," an officer of Manikchak police station said.

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THE HINDU

Amit Shah to hold meeting with Bengal BJP unit in Delhi today

Amid ongoing tussle among warring factions; meet a routine one, says Ghosh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

BJP national president Amit Shah will hold a meeting of top party leaders from Bengal in the national capital on Wednesday amid the ongoing tussle in the unit.

Party sources said on Tuesday that State BJP president Dilip Ghosh and senior leader Mukul Roy will take part in the meeting which will discuss organisational issues and the upcoming party organisational elections in the State.

Mr. Ghosh said the meeting is a routine one and denied that there would be discussions on his differences with Mr. Roy.



Amit Shah

"Every two months we have such meetings on organisational progress in the State. All the organisational issues will be discussed".

But State BJP sources said the differences between Mr. Roy and Mr. Ghosh will be discussed during the meeting.

The differences between

the two leaders came out in the open over induction of former Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chatterjee and his friend Baisakhi Banerjee on August 14 at the BJP headquarters in Delhi.

Mr. Chatterjee had recently said he would quit the party if TMC MLA Debashree Roy joins the party. He had expressed his desire to quit the saffron party barely after two weeks of joining it as he "felt humiliated" due to certain remarks by State unit leaders.

Mr. Ghosh dismissed Mr. Chatterjee's allegation saying no one can join it by setting any "precondition" and every member has to abide

by the rules and regulations of the party.

"At a time when people of Bengal are looking at us (BJP) as an alternative, differences between the two top leaders of the State unit has not gone down well with the central leadership and has sent out a wrong message to the cadres," a senior State BJP leader said.

Buoyed by its performance in the Lok Sabha election when it had bagged 18 out of a total 42 Lok Sabha seats in Bengal, only four less than the TMC, BJP leaders have been asserting that their next target is to unseat Mamata Banerjee from power in the 2021 State polls.

Odisha villagers' bid to save their homes from soil erosion

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

To save their village from severe sea erosion, villagers of Ramayapatna on Odisha's Ganjam district coast have started digging and clearing the Bahuda river mouth.

Blockage of the river mouth, formation of a sand

bar and opening of a new river mouth have been identified as the reasons behind the sudden rise in sea erosion, threatening the existence of Ramayapatna. During the past few weeks, around 38 houses and some community establishments of the village under the Katturu panchayat

of Chikiti block have been gobbled up by sea waves, said sarpanch Jagabandhu Behera.

"Sea erosion increases at Ramayapatna when the flow of water increases in the Bahuda river during rain. As the inhabitants fear there will be more rain in next few weeks, they decided to dig up the

blocked river mouth on their own by hiring an excavator," said Mr. Behera.

As an immediate measure, the administration and the irrigation department have decided on stone dumping along the coast of Ramayapatna, said executive engineer of the Berhampur irrigation di-

vision, Bijay Kumar Palo.

"Continuous sea erosion at Ramayapatna is due to changes in the Bahuda river mouth and measures to save the village are being taken as per the advice of a team of experts from the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai," he said

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Govt. looks at disaster management tool

State to take the help of U.S. agency; flood damage crosses ₹14,000 cr. in a decade in MMR alone

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The State government is looking to put in place a ₹140-crore disaster risk management tool with the help of the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) to reduce the damage caused by floods, as recently witnessed in parts of western Maharashtra.

The USTDA, an independent American think tank, has assessed the losses from floods in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) to \$2 billion (₹14,350 crore) within an area of 4,355 sq km in over a decade. Between 2005 and 2015, the USTDA had said in a preliminary report submitted to the government in August, that over 3,000 people have died in floods in the MMR while near 1,50,000 fell sick after flooding.

The government has agreed to the preliminary report, which assesses the losses, and points to the lack of flood management in the re-



Danger looming: Kolhapur and Sangli residents fear a repeat of the floods on Tuesday, as water level of the Panchanganga river is on the rise. ■DEEPAK KUMBHAR

gion as a cause of concern. According to the report, vulnerable disaster-prone areas are not being identified, new infrastructure projects are not taken up with hazard levels in mind, among other loopholes in the system. The

report recommends that the government implement a flood management and vulnerability risk framework through an integrated technology platform.

A senior official of the State Relief and Rehabilita-

tion Department said, “They (USTDA) are suggesting the platform collect and disseminate data, be applicable during and post disaster support while also devising a disaster vulnerability risk index.”

A similar tool was de-

signed in Brazil and Thailand, on GIS-based flood maps and zoning for early warning and forecasts. The system has been implemented in the Thailand Chao Phraya River Basin where flood management was improved in 1,60,000 sq. km. A real-time decision support system provides short and medium-term flood forecast, reducing the damaging impact of floods, officials said.

The government has assessed the damage from the recent floods in Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara to add up to ₹6,813 crore, and has asked the Centre for assistance to pay compensation to the victims. The floods also invited criticism from experts who had questioned the government’s handling of the crisis and providing relief on time.

A vulnerability index as part of the tool could include a measurement framework with key indicators and reliability assessment to respond to data quality issues.

114 dams put on high alert in Gujarat after heavy rain

Water reaches 136 m at Sardar Sarovar dam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat continues to be battered by heavy rain, prompting authorities to put more than 100 dams and reservoirs on high alert.

The State has put more than half of its water bodies on high alert following heavy water inflows at the reservoirs as rain continues unabated, exceeding more than 110 % of the season’s total rainfall.

As per the latest update, out of the 204 reservoirs in the State, 114 dams have been put on ‘high alert’ after being filled over 90%.

The Sardar Sarovar dam on Narmada river, whose full capacity is 138.6 m, has also been put on high alert with water level at 136 m. It is expected to touch full capacity soon, as the heavy inflow continues, following fresh rain in upper catchment areas in Madhya Pradesh.



Inundated: People have been cautioned against venturing outdoors till Wednesday, as rain continues unabated in Ahmedabad city. ■VIJAY SONEJI

The authorities have released more than a million cusec water from the reservoir. As a result, more than 200 villages in Narmada, Bharuch and Vadodara districts have been put on alert. Gujarat has so far received total rainfall of 926.59 mm, which is 13.5% more

than its Long-Period Average of 816 mm.

This year, rainfall picked up in August, when it received 446 mm rainfall. So far in September, the State has received 150 mm rains.

The civic body has asked people to stay indoors till Wednesday.

INTERVIEW | ADAR POONAWALLA

‘There is no slowdown in the vaccine manufacturing sector’

Serum Institute CEO on new plant and the ‘power of vaccines’

JYOTI SHELAR
MUMBAI

A new vaccine production plant of the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune’s Manjri area is all set to start operations from November to scale up production and cater to new markets. The SII’s 38-year-old chief executive officer, Adar Poonawalla, is visibly thrilled about the new facility and his new office—an Airbus A320. He refuses to divulge more about the aircraft, but says he will unveil it in the next two months when it is ready. The vaccine maker has a new monoclonal antibody injection and a preventive vaccine for dengue in the pipeline, along with other upcoming formulations. The Hindu chats with Mr. Poonawalla about the vaccines and challenges in the sector.

the next four years as we scale it up. This is going to be the single largest site in the world to make vaccines.

You mentioned that your sector has not witnessed any slowdown. Can you elaborate?

■ We are in the business of saving lives, and essential products are always needed whether there is a recession or not. The Indian government and the world has recognised that the most cost-effective way of saving a life is better than treating in hospitals, where the costs are much more. By just giving a cheap vaccine, you can protect yourself for 10 years or more. Our prime minister and the health minister truly understand the power of vaccines. So, our sector is not slowing down, it is in fact growing.

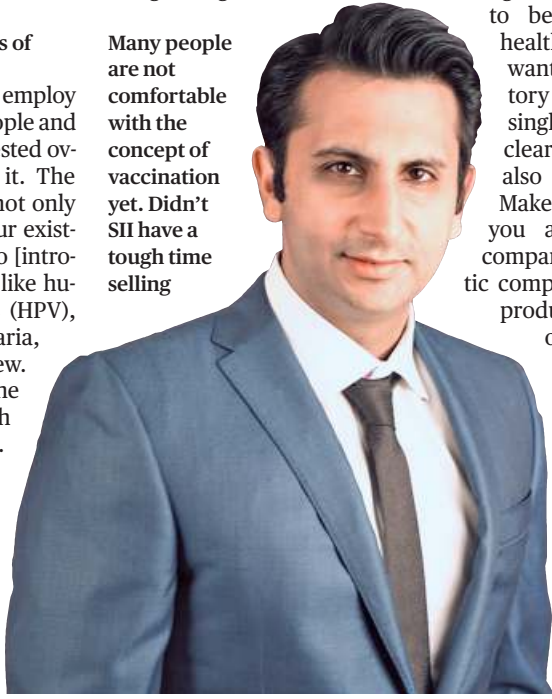
a flu vaccine?

■ Adults don’t like to take vaccines. Their attitude is mostly like ‘we will get treated when it happens’. Flu is a major killer. The hospitalisation cost, for something like H1N1 for example, is huge. Instead, you can take a vaccine for ₹200 and avoid it. My fear is that if I make a vaccine for dengue, even if people are afraid of the disease, they may not take it. We need to change this attitude and create more awareness.

What are the major challenges that the sector is facing?

■ We have proposed to further turbocharge the sector by policy changes for ease of doing business, better online regulatory reforms and many other things that we are going to be put to the health minister. We want faster regulatory approvals and single-window clearances. We are also proposing Make In India – if you are a foreign company or a domestic company, you have produce in India in order to participate in tenders and do business in India. We are now properly voicing our concerns through the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association.

Many people are not comfortable with the concept of vaccination yet. Didn’t SII have a tough time selling



What will be the focus of the new plant?

■ Our new plant will employ more than 3,000 people and we have already invested over ₹3,000 crore in it. The idea of the plant is not only to add capacity to our existing vaccines, but also (introduce) new vaccines like human papillomavirus (HPV), pneumonia, malaria, dengue to name a few. This is the first vaccine plant in India which will cater to the U.S. and European markets. So the highest standards, all quality norms, equipment, and processes are in place. It will make about 500 million doses eventually over

Blow to Cong. as Prithviraj Chavan aide to join BJP

MLC Anandrao Patil has been party’s Satara district president for 18 years

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The Congress is in for another blow in western Maharashtra as MLC Anandrao Patil, the right-hand man of senior Congressman and former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan, is said to be on his way to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Mr. Patil, a long-time aide of Mr. Chavan, has been the Congress’s Satara district president for nearly 18 years, besides heading a number of important posts in the Satara unit, and other positions like the vice-chairman of the Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation.

He has called a meeting of his supporters on September

nure as MLC in June 2020.

“While the term of a district president is usually 10 years, Mr. Patil, through the good offices of Mr. Chavan, had got an extension. Mr. Chavan had also consistently promoted him to a number of responsible posts,” the aide said, accusing the BJP of playing a cold political game of “buying” opposition leaders.

While his defection is said to pose problems for Mr. Chavan, who is the MLA from the vital South Karad Assembly constituency, the senior Congressman is unperturbed and confident that he still retains a loyal base in his constituency.

In the 2014 Assembly elections, Mr. Chavan won a stiff contest against formidable opponents both on the outside (the BJP’s Atul Bhosale) and within his party in the form of seven-time MLA Vilas Patil Undalkar, who contested as an Independent.

However, equations in Satara district as a whole have changed dramatically since the BJP-Shiv Sena’s Lok Sabha sweep and the seemingly unstoppable exodus of Congress-NCP MLAs and important leaders in western Maharashtra.

The BJP have already inducted two sitting opposition MLAs: the NCP’s Shiven-draraje Bhosale of Satara and Congress MLA from Maan, Jaykumar Gore, a former supporter of Mr. Chavan.

Harshavardhan to join BJP

Meanwhile, senior Congressman Harshavardhan Patil, upset with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) over the Indapur Assembly seat, is expected to formally join the BJP on Wednesday in the presence of Mr. Fadnavis and BJP State president Chandrakant Patil.

[Anandrao Patil] had been giving strong hints of disaffection even before the Lok Sabha polls

A CLOSE AIDE OF PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN

Congress, NCP decide to contest equal number of Assembly seats

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Former chief minister and senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan on Tuesday said his party and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have finalised to contest 123 to 125 Assembly seats each and leave the rest of the 288 open for discussion or share them with smaller allies.

“As per the discussions till now, Congress is going to contest somewhere between 123 and 125 seats, while an equal number of seats will be contested by the NCP. Discussions on around 40 seats is yet to take place,” Mr. Chavan said at a press conference.

While in 2014, the two parties contested independently, prior to that, the Congress would have a larger share. However, given that the NCP won four seats in the Lok Sabha polls and the Congress only one, the allies seem to have agreed on contesting an equal number of seats.

When asked about other allies, Mr. Chavan said the Congress is in talks with the Samajwadi Party and the Raju Shetti-led Swabhimani Paksha. “We want to join hands with Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi. But they



Prithviraj Chavan said they are willing to talk with VBA, but the latter does not want the NCP as an ally. ■FILE PHOTO

are not willing to form an alliance with the NCP ... We can give them a few seats from our share, but they have to accept NCP as well,” Mr. Chavan said. He ruled out any talks with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen.

When asked whether the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena will be part of the alliance, Mr. Chavan said local level talks could be under way. “But we have not yet decided.”

On Wednesday, NCP chief Sharad Pawar met Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi. According to sources, the meeting was to finalise the seat-sharing formula.

Earlier, Mr. Chavan said the State government was not doing enough to bring

foreign direct investment (FDI) into the State, and dared Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to provide district-wise figures of FDI inflow since 2014.

Speaking about the Centre’s ambitious plans to get the country’s economy to the \$5 trillion mark by 2025, Mr. Chavan said knowing the size of an economy was not enough to gauge its health. “You need to know the GDP growth rate and the current per capita income. I challenge the Centre and Maharashtra government to provide the correct figures. Our economy is in a shambles due to the policies of the Narendra Modi government. It has been misleading the youth and farmers,” Mr. Chavan said.

Mr. Patil, a former State minister and four-time MLA from Indapur, had lost by a narrow margin to the NCP’s Dattatreya Bhanne in 2014 when the Congress and NCP contested separately.

Despite this, he had supported NCP MP Supriya Sule and campaigned to ensure her victory from the Baramati Lok Sabha seat in the hope that the NCP would back his candidacy for the Indapur

segment, which is part of the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency.

However, the NCP’s disinclination to pick him over Mr. Bhanne has riled the Congressman.

Streaming giant Netflix inks multi-year, exclusive deal with Karan Johar

Dharmatic to produce range of new fiction, non-fiction series and films exclusively for the digital service

NAMRATA JOSHI
MUMBAI

In a one of its kind, exclusive, long-term partnership in India, leading internet entertainment service Netflix is getting into a multi-year deal with Karan Johar’s digital content company Dharmatic Entertainment for content creation. As part of the deal, Dharmatic will produce a wide range of new fiction and non-fiction series and films exclusively for the streaming giant.

Though Netflix will continue to work with other creators in the industry, the collaboration with Dharmatic is being described as a rare “deep

partnership”.

In an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*, Mr. Johar spoke of it as a “collaboration of equals”. “We decided to focus on one strong group as opposed to multiple partnerships,” he said, adding in jest that it’s a marriage in which Dharmatic won’t cheat on Netflix.

Netflix and Mr. Johar first worked together last year on the anthology film *Lust Stories*. He is also involved in two upcoming Netflix original films – he is directing one of the films in the anthology *Ghost Stories* and producing Ruchi Narain’s *Guilty*. Mr. Johar will also be hosting a dating

reality show, *What The Love?*, for Netflix that is being produced by BBC Studios India.

Netflix was drawn to the brand of cinema and storytelling that Mr. Johar represents. “We like the ethos, the artistic integrity, the young vibe, the fact that he has always remained relevant and has discovered and nurtured new talent... It blends in with Netflix ethos; it’s a perfect match... It would be interesting to see his take on multi-season, long format storytelling,” said Monika Shergill, director, international originals, Netflix India.

“The question was never why Karan Johar, but why

not,” said Srishti Behl Arya, director, international original film, Netflix India.

“Johar and Dharmatic Entertainment will have all the creative freedom and support they need to create pioneering dramas and unscripted series – as well as films – for our members all over the world,” said Bela Bajaria, VP, international originals, Netflix.

According to Mr. Johar, with its unique creative freedom and instantaneous global reach, Netflix provides a fearless space for creators. “I’m super excited about the projects we already have in development and the limitless possibilities ahead. To create universal

stories from India that the world discovers is an incredible and unprecedented opportunity,” he said.

Apoorva Mehta, CEO, Dharma Productions, expressed excitement about the storytelling possibilities ahead. “With Netflix as the new storytelling home for Dharmatic Entertainment, I have the highest hopes for what we can do together. Our vision is to create differentiated stories across diverse genres and we can’t wait to craft and usher many more remarkable series and films into the world with Netflix,” he said. Dharmatic is the digital content arm under Dharma Productions.

OTHER COLLABORATIONS

■ **Red Chillies Entertainment** (Shah Rukh Khan): *Bard of Blood*, *Betaal* (series), *Class of 83* (Film)

■ **Clean Slate Films** (Anushka Sharma): *Bulbul* (film), *Mai* (series)

■ **RSVP**: *Love Per Square Foot*, *Lust Stories*, *Ghost Stories* (films)

■ **Blumhouse**: *Ghoul*, *Betaal* (series)

■ **Roy Kapur Films**: *Yeh Ballet* (film)

■ **Mutant Films**: *Messy* (series), *Maska* (film)

■ **Anil Kapoor Film and**



Communication Network Pvt. Ltd.: *Selection Day* (series)

■ **Viniyard Films**: *Chopsticks* (film), *Masaba Masaba* (series)

IN BRIEF



T.N. CM returns from foreign trip

CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami returned to the city on Tuesday after leading a delegation to the U.K., the U.S. and UAE as part of fortnight-long foreign trip aimed at attracting investments to the State.

ED attaches assets worth ₹92 crores of SPS Steel

NEW DELHI
The ED has attached assets worth ₹92 crore of SPS Steel Rolling Mills Limited and others for alleged involvement in a ₹550 crore bank loan fraud case. They were accused of cheating a consortium of eight banks, led by Allahabad Bank.

Gujarat govt. reduces penalties under MV Act

GANDHINAGAR
The BJP-ruled Gujarat government announced a drastic cut in the penalties for traffic violations even as the Centre is justifying the amended Motor Vehicles (MV) Act. In some cases, the reduction in the State is as steep as ₹1,000 from ₹10,000. PTI

Fire in Gujarat hospital, no injuries reported

VADODARA
Forty-five patients, including 35 children, were shifted to other wards after a fire broke out in the paediatric unit of state-run SSG Hospital in Vadodara on Tuesday afternoon, an official said. Hospital Superintendent Dr. Deveshwar Pandey said the fire started on second floor.

Interim relief for people excluded from NRC

GUWAHATI
People excluded from the final NRC will get certified copies regarding rejection of their names at the earliest so that they can file their appeals, the office of the NRC State Coordinator said. The dates regarding exclusion certificates will be announced soon. PTI

Tabrez lynching: police drop murder charge

In the chargesheet submitted last month, they sought prosecution of 11 accused under Section 304 instead of Section 302

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The family members of Tabrez Ansari, who was lynched in Seraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand about four months ago, have accused the State police of weakening the case by toning down the charges against the accused.

In the chargesheet submitted last month, police had sought prosecution against 11 accused under Section 304 instead of under Section 302 of the IPC.

Family members, including Sahista Pervaz, wife of the deceased, had objected to the ‘weakening’ of the case in the chargesheet, while submitting a memorandum to the Seraikela-Kharsawan Deputy Commissioner.

They had demanded supply of the copy of investigation conducted by Sub-divisional magistrate, Saraikela,

Basharat Qayyum, and a re-examination of viscera samples of the deceased.

Charges diluted

“The Seraikela police had initially registered an FIR against the accused under Section 302 on a written complaint from the victim’s wife. During submission of the chargesheet, the accused were charged under Section 304 of the IPC, instead of the much stronger Section of 302. It is a clear attempt to weaken the case,” alleged Tabrez’s uncle Md. Mansoor Alam.

When contacted, Seraikela-Kharsawan Superintendent of Police, Karthik S, said, “There is no question of diluting the case.”

“Section 304 of the IPC, which is culpable homicide not amounting to murder, has life imprisonment provision and 302 of the IPC is capital punishment. There is



Tabrez Ansari was beaten up by a mob and allegedly forced to chant ‘Jai Hanuman’ and ‘Jai Shri Ram’. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

very thin line existing between the two Sections,” he added.

‘Cardiac arrest’

“Since the medical report did not confirm the cause of death properly, the provision under Section 304 was applied. Tabrez didn’t die of injury. He died of cardiac ar-

rest due to stress,” said Mr. Karthik.

The district police clarified further saying, “We had gone for the second opinion from forensic experts. According to them, the death was due to the combined effect of heart attack and injury. Moreover, the victim did not die on the spot, but suc-

cumbed after few days of the attack. That is why we thought it proper to seek punishment under Section 304 after getting it vetted by legal experts.”

When asked about earlier reports of Tabrez sustaining brain haemorrhage in the mob attack, the SP said the first postmortem report did mention about ‘light’ haemorrhage.

“However, the brain hemorrhage was so minimal that it could not be written. Even in the second opinion they also talked about brain haemorrhage. It was mentioned that the fracture in the head and other injury had led to heart attack,” Mr. Karthik contended.

Eleven persons have so far been charge-sheeted in the case and investigation was pending against two more persons as they were apprehended later. Photo and voice analysis of the two

were yet to be done.

In April this year, Tabrez, the 24-year-old, who was working as a welder in Pune, had returned to his village Kadamdia, 15 km from district headquarters town of Seraikela, to get married.

On April 27, his marriage was solemnised with Sahista Pervaz, 19. The couple would have returned to Pune in few days.

Thief tag

But on June 17 night, some people of Dhatkidihi village, a few kilometres from his house, caught hold of him and branded him a thief.

He was beaten up by a mob for whole night and forced to chant ‘Jai Hanuman and Jai Sriram’.

On June 22, he succumbed to injuries in the judicial custody.

It was alleged that Tabrez was not given proper medical attention on time.

16-year-old wishes to join her ‘husband’

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has decided to examine the appeal of a 16-year-old teenager, lodged in a shelter home on the orders of the Allahabad High Court, to return to her 24-year-old “husband” whom she married in accordance with Mohammedan law.

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana has issued notice to the State of Uttar Pradesh and sought a response in two weeks.

HC order

The High Court had on July 17, 2019 declared the marriage void. It said she had not yet attained the age of majority of 18. Since she had refused to go home to her parents, the court ordered her stay in a government home for women.

In her plea, the girl claimed that she had attained puberty and is a major under the Mohammedan law. She is married to a person whom she loves and her enforced stay in a home violates her basic fundamental right of equality.

M.P. to offer cows for adoption online

Multiple programmes for donors

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government is going to launch an online service for those wanting to adopt a cow and provide sheds to them at gaushalas (cow shelters) across the State.

While paying for a cow’s feed for 15 days would cost ₹1,100, one could take care of its diet for 10 years for ₹3 lakh. Feeding a cow for six months would cost ₹11,100.

“We have added an extra hundred to multiples of thousands of rupees as that’s considered holy while making donations,” said an official of the Animal Husbandry Department.

Through the service, donors would be able to pick a

gaushala from the 626 in the State, and pay the amount to fulfil a cow’s diet of half a kilo of grain, five kilos of green feed and 10 kilos of wheat chaff a day, in case of a non-lactating, non-pregnant cow.

Identity withheld

“For now, donors wouldn’t be able to pick a specific cow to feed. If that is allowed, it would be an injustice to other cows who may be left without proper feed and even starve,” said the official. “But if the service receives a positive response, we may post details of cows with photographs online – say, of Bablu or Pinky – so that donors could pick their choice.”

129 kg mephedrone worth ₹52 crore seized

ATS officers raid factory in Navi Mumbai where drug was manufactured; 5 held

GAUTAM S. MENGLE
MUMBAI

With the arrest of five men, the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) has busted a major drug racket in the city. A whopping 129 kg of mephedrone worth ₹52 crore in the international market was seized from the accused.

Based on a tip-off, the ATS officers intercepted two men on Monday near Bhandup pumping station on Eastern Express Highway. “The duo was found carrying nine kg of mephedrone. Their interrogation led us to another accused in Bandra and all three were arrested,” Vikram Deshmane, deputy commissioner of police, ATS, said.

Mr. Deshmane said the accused revealed during their interrogation that they were part of a gang that manufactured mephedrone in a so-



Huge haul: ATS officers display the seized mephedrone and cash on Tuesday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

phisticated laboratory and supplied it across the city.

₹1 crore in cash seized

Mr. Deshmane said, “We raided a factory in Navi Mumbai where mephedrone was being synthesised and seized 120 kg of the drug. We

arrested two men from the spot and seized ₹1.04 crore in cash that was earned from the sale of the drug.”

The duo was arrested and samples of the seized drug were sent to the Forensic Sciences Laboratory for testing. The accused were

charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and are being interrogated. An ATS officer said, “We are going through their call detail records to get a sense of the extent of their clientele. The quantity of the drugs seized indicates that the accused seem to be among the major, if not the only, suppliers of mephedrone in Mumbai. They would procure the chemicals needed for synthesising mephedrone and manufacture the drug, indicating that at least some of them have knowledge of chemistry.”

The ATS officers are finding out if the accused have cases registered against them in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. They are also investigating if the accused have any links with known drug peddlers in the city.

BA pilot strike will hit Indian students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The total grounding of the British Airways for two days after its pilots went on a strike over pay dispute is likely to have a cascading affect on Indian students planning to travel to the U.K. for the new academic season, say online travel agencies.

The British Airline Pilots’ Association (BALPA) struck work on Monday and Tuesday after nine-month long talks with the management had failed.

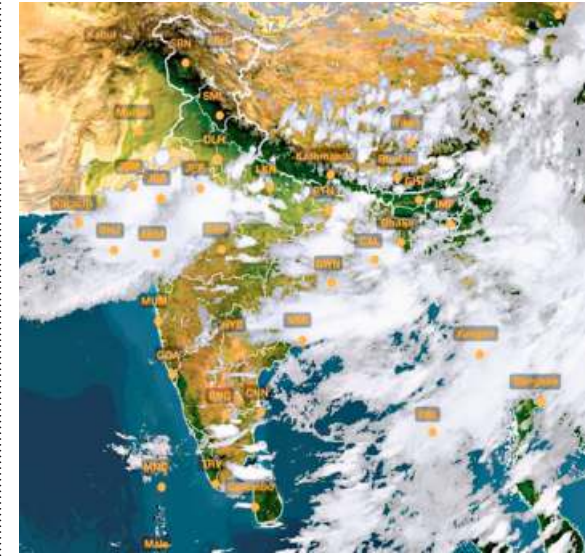
Some media reports suggest the strike is due to end at midnight on Tuesday though there could be cancellations on Wednesday too.

The pilots are also scheduled to go on a strike on September 27 and the airline’s website says it has not been notified of any further disruptions by the union.

The uncertainty surrounding the airline’s operations that has 51 flights a week to five destinations in India is likely to adversely affect students joining universities in the U.K. for the fall season.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Gujarat, western and eastern Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Sikkim, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, central Maharashtra, Konkan and Goa.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	36.0	27.0	Kozhikode	16.2	30.8	24.6
Ahmedabad	18.6	27.4	25.9	Kurnool	...	33.8	24.8
Aizawl	0.4	21.9	11.7	Lucknow	...	36.8	27.6
Allahabad	4.8	34.0	27.8	Madurai	...	39.6	27.6
Bangaluru	...	27.9	20.6	Mangaluru	5.7	30.0	23.6
Bhopal	29.4	25.8	23.4	Mumbai	54.4	28.2	24.4
Bhubaneswar	...	31.0	26.7	Mysuru	...	28.0	19.9
Chandigarh	...	34.9	26.8	New Delhi	...	37.5	27.6
Chennai	...	34.9	27.7	Patna	...	34.6	27.2
Coimbatore	...	32.2	22.9	Port Blair	0.4	30.3	25.1
Dehradun	...	33.4	25.4	Puducherry	...	34.2	25.2
Gangtok	4.6	22.7	18.0	Pune	3.1	26.6	21.6
Goa	...	30.8	25.1	Raipur	8.6	31.0	25.0
Guwahati	0.7	35.3	26.1	Ranchi	...	31.0	23.4
Hubbali	...	27.0	22.0	Shillong	9.4	25.3	17.9
Hyderabad	2.6	31.0	23.2	Shimla	...	25.5	16.4
Imphal	...	30.6	22.7	Srinagar	...	31.7	13.2
Jaipur	...	37.0	26.8	Thiruvananthapuram	0.1	32.8	24.7
Kochi	43.6	29.2	24.2	Tiruchi	...	38.0	27.6
Kohima	7.2	25.4	18.4	Vijayawada	2.0	34.6	26.6
Kolkata	0.2	33.6	27.7	Visakhapatnam	1.6	28.8	26.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing						Yesterday
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	66	75	99	...	88	...
Bangaluru	11	...	78	...	115	...
Chennai	7	11	82	...	74	...
Delhi	8	64	22	108	251	...
Hyderabad	4	...	19	26	44	...
Kolkata	6	29	15	61	70	...
Lucknow	4	27	68	49
Mumbai	15	23	19	42	83	...
Pune	74	...	68	31	31	...
Visakhapatnam	9	51	53	...	58	...

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ISRO keeps up bid to link with moon lander

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

For the fourth day on Tuesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) continued its efforts to re-connect with the 1.4-tonne lunar lander Vikram. The lander has been lying silent on the moon’s surface since the early hours of Saturday, the space agency confirmed on Tuesday in a short up-

date. Suspense continues on its status amid many reports and speculation about its fate.

“All we can say is that all efforts are on to revive it,” an official said. “You must understand that this is a very difficult time for us to be saying anything with conviction.” The orbiter is going around the moon at a distance of 100 km.

Two new species of ginger discovered in Nagaland

Northeast climate conducive to genus diversity

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered two new species of Zingiber, commonly referred to as ginger, in Nagaland. While *Zingiber perenense* has been discovered from the Peren district of Nagaland, *Zingiber dimapurense* was found in the Dimapur district of the State.

Details of both discoveries were published in two peer-reviewed journals earlier this year. Of the two species, *Zingiber dimapurense* is taller in size, with leafy shoots measuring 90-120 cm high, whereas the leafy shoots of *Zingiber perenense* reach up to 70 cm in height.

The type specimens of *Zingiber perenense* were collected in September 2017, when botanists were working on the ‘State flora of Nagaland’ in the Peren district. “The plant was found growing in moist shady places on the bank of a small stream in the hilly terrain forest of the Tesen village under the Pe-



Zingiber perenense, left, was found growing in moist areas, while Zingiber dimapurense was collected from a forest.

Tahilramani not to preside over court proceedings indefinitely

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A majority of the lawyers practising in the Madras HC abstained from court proceedings on Tuesday, impressing upon the Supreme Court collegium to withdraw its transfer recommendation of Chief Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani to the HC of Meghalaya.

Abstention from work was near total though a few of lawyers presented their cases. Some staged a demonstration insisting she withdraw her resignation.

Meanwhile, the Chief Justice chose not to preside over court proceedings for the second consecutive day. Expecting a quick reply to her resignation from the Presi-

dent’s office, a notification issued by the High Court on Monday stated that she would not be sitting in court only on that day.

However, since there was no official word, a notification said all urgent matters pertaining to her Division Bench would be listed before the second Division Bench.

PM-JAY head approaches Delhi again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) CEO Indu Bhushan has approached the Delhi government again, asking it look at the benefits of opting for the government scheme.

Dr. Bhushan met with Delhi Lt. Governor Anil Bajjal “to discuss the possible implementation of Ayushman Bharat in Delhi.”

‘New milestone’

Dr. Bhushan said that the two discussed how Delhites could significantly benefit from the scheme.

Meanwhile, as per information released by PM-JAY, the insurance scheme has now crossed a “new milestone of 10 crore e-cards, which have been issued before the end of a year.”

Speaking about the spread and reach of the scheme, Vikram A. Munshi, founder of WhiteSpace, which works in the health sector, said: “PM-JAY is a mammoth initiative which is aimed at ensuring help to several lakh people who slip below the poverty line every year on account of healthcare expenses.”

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (NIPER-KOLKATA)
राष्ट्रीय औषधीय शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान, कोलकाता
(Dept of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers)
Chunilal Bhawan, 168 Maniktala Main Road, Adjacent to Bengal Chemicals, Kolkata 700054, West Bengal

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO. NIPER-K/04/2019-20
The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER)-Kolkata is an Institute of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India.
Online Applications are invited from the eligible and suitable Indian Nationals for direct recruitment/deputation for the Teaching and Non-Teaching posts on regular basis through open competition on all India basis. The commencement date and last dates for submission of online/hardcopy of applications are as under:

Date of Commencement of Online Application	12/09/2019 (Thursday, 10.00 am)
Last date of Online Application & Payment of Fees	10/10/2019 (Thursday, up to 6.00 pm)
Last date of receipt of hard copy of online application at NIPER-K along with all enclosures.	22/10/2019 (Tuesday, up to 4.00 pm)

For further details please visit our website www.niperkolkata.edu.in.
Date 11/09/2019 Registrar (I/C)

SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT BOARD
Court Compound, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500 003

PUBLICATION OF TENDER NOTICE
TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICINES FOR USAGE AT CANTONMENT GENERAL HOSPITAL, BOLARAM.
Lr.No.SCB/CGH/E-Tender/Medicines/20 Dt.04-09-2019

S. No.	Description of tender	Approx. Estimated cost of tender in (₹)	Earnest Money in (₹)	Cost of tender form in (₹)
1	Tender for engagement of Agencies / firms for supply of Medicines, Surgical items etc.,	12,00,000/-	36,000/-	5000/- (Inclusive of GST)

E-Tender website portal at www.eprocure.gov.in, "Tender ID: 2019_DGDE_501724_1"

CRITICAL DATE SHEET			
S.No.	Activity	Date	Time
1	Publish date	09/09/2019	After 1400 hrs
2	Document Download start date	09/09/2019	After 1400 hrs
3	Bid submission start date	09/09/2019	After 1400 hrs
4	Bid submission end date	23/09/2019	Up to 1500 hrs
5	Technical bid opening date	24/09/2019	After 1500 hrs
6	Financial bid opening date	25/09/2019	After 1500 hrs

Sd/- Dy.Chief Executive Officer,
Secunderabad Cantonment Board



Factoring in safety

Major industrial accidents point to the need for a stronger worker safety law

India's record in promoting occupational and industrial safety remains weak even with years of robust economic growth. Making work environments safer is a low priority, although the productivity benefits of such investments have always been clear. The consequences are frequently seen in the form of a large number of fatalities and injuries, but in a market that has a steady supply of labour, policymakers tend to ignore the wider impact of such losses. It will be no surprise, therefore, if the deaths of four people, including a senior officer, in a fire at the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation gas facility in Navi Mumbai, or the tragedy that killed nearly two dozen people at a firecracker factory in Batala, Punjab are quickly forgotten. Such incidents make it imperative that the Central government abandon its reductionist approach to the challenge, and engage in serious reform. There is not much evidence, however, of progressive moves. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019, introduced in the Lok Sabha in July to combine 13 existing laws relating to mines, factories, dock workers, building and construction, transport workers, inter-State migrant labour and so on, pays little attention to the sector-specific requirements of workers. One of its major shortcomings is that formation of safety committees and appointment of safety officers, the latter in the case of establishments with 500 workers, is left to the discretion of State governments. Evidently, the narrow stipulation on safety officers confines it to a small fraction of industries. On the other hand, the Factories Act currently mandates appointment of a bipartite committee in units that employ hazardous processes or substances, with exemptions being the exception. This provision clearly requires retention in the new Code.

A safe work environment is a basic right, and India's recent decades of high growth should have ushered in a framework of guarantees. Unfortunately, successive governments have not felt it necessary to ratify many fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) covering organised and unorganised sector workers' safety, including the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981. Those ILO instruments cover several areas of activity that the NDA government's occupational safety Code now seeks to amalgamate, but without the systemic reform that is necessary to empower workers. It is essential, therefore, that the new Code go back to the drawing board for careful scrutiny by experienced parliamentarians, aided by fresh inputs from employees, employers and experts. Industries that use hazardous processes and chemicals deserve particular attention, and the Code must have clear definitions, specifying limits of exposure for workers. Compromising on safety can lead to extreme consequences that go beyond factories, and leave something that is etched in the nation's memory as in the case of the Bhopal gas disaster.

Hard-fought glory

With his 19th Grand Slam win, Nadal closes in on Federer's record in the race for tennis' apex Rafael Nadal's relationship with hard courts can be described as tenuous at best. While he is the king of clay and quite adept on grass, the acrylic has often been his bane. Over the years, the Spaniard has found the surface unforgiving; from his back to both his hips right down to his knees, all have suffered significant wear and tear. Yet, none of this stopped the 33-year-old from securing his fourth U.S. Open title on Sunday, making him the most successful champion at Flushing Meadows this decade above Novak Djokovic (3). The thrilling five-set win over Russian Daniil Medvedev gave Nadal his 19th Major and puts him just one short of record-holder Roger Federer. To be sure, the surface is still his least favourite. Last month, when he won the Rogers Cup in Montreal, it was the first time in his illustrious career that he had defended a hard court title. As recently as in 2017-18, there was a stretch during which he retired or withdrew from 11 of the 12 hard court events he had entered. However, the latest triumph showed what a healthy, well-rested and mentally sharp Nadal could achieve. While in 2018 he had left New York limping, after three long, bruising encounters, Nadal this time, at least until the final, was supremely efficient. The court did its bit too; slightly below medium-pace, it gave Nadal a fraction extra to set up his shots and at the same time rewarded his recently acquired aggressive streak.

The success is also another indicator that the Big 3 of Federer, Nadal and Djokovic, all in their thirties, are still the hegemonic class in men's tennis. Medvedev appeared to usher in the next generation for a fleeting set or two but couldn't deny a 12th straight Major for the celebrated trio. In fact, an astonishing 51 of the last 59 Slams dating back to the 2005 French Open have been cornered by the three. What it now does is set up a tantalising endgame in the race to most Grand Slam titles. It is a competition that the protagonists Federer (20), Nadal (19) and Djokovic (16) attest to being least interested in. But coming as it does when the threat from the younger crop appears genuine, it is a compelling scenario for the fans at least. On the women's side, however, the thrill of novelty continued unabated with Canadian teen sensation Bianca Andreescu becoming the latest first-time Slam winner. In her remarkable straight sets victory over Serena Williams, the 19-year-old played with the kind of intelligence, imagination and audacity that is usually the preserve of the sport's very best, as she left the American legend's dream of a record-equalling 24th Major in tatters, yet again.

The drumbeaters of dystopia

The Indian media can barely question the state narrative on Kashmir, while global outlets can only pick holes in it



KRISHNA PRASAD

On the last morning of October 1984, Rajiv Gandhi was campaigning in West Bengal when a police jeep intercepted his Mercedes to deliver the message: "There's been an accident in the house. Return immediately to Delhi." His mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, had been shot at by her Sikh bodyguards in her garden, on the way to a TV interview. As he waited for a helicopter to take him to Calcutta, the Congress General Secretary turned on his transistor radio to get the latest. He tuned in, not to All India Radio but the BBC. The news was not good but that is not the point.

Even in pre-reforms India, when broadcast media was a government monopoly and mouthpiece, a would-be Prime Minister's first resort of trust was "Auntie", not mummy's Akashvani. Thirty-five years on, with 400 private TV news channels, 1,000 newspapers, and 3,000 radio stations, it is a telling commentary on the credibility of the Indian news media ecosystem — in fact, on the theology of "competition" in a free-market economy — that nearly every piece of information which contests the establishment narrative that all is well in Kashmir, has come from a non-Indian source.

Stark contrast in coverage

Here's a baker's dozen since the "lockdown" began: First video of protests, firing: BBC, 'Al Jazeera', Reuters; Number of arrested: AFP, AP, Time, The New York Times; Minors among those detained: The Washington Post; Detenus flown out of overcrowded jails: AFP; First pellet injury death: 'Huffington Post'; Soura, epicentre of resistance: Reuters; First bullet injury death: France 24; Beatings, torture: BBC, The Independent; Ha-

rassment, sexual abuse of women: Deutsche Welle; Civilians forced to chant 'Vande Mataram': Foreign Policy; Doctor detained for speaking of shortage of medicines: BBC; Hospitals turning into 'graveyards': The Wall Street Journal; Emerging medical emergency: The Lancet editorial.

With most "national media" plunging into the patriotic duty of drumming up support for the "constitutionally contentious" move — privileging the interests of a rampaging State over that of the caged citizen — the contrast provided by global outlets unmasking the suppression of human, civil and fundamental rights of Kashmiris, has been so stark that one website was constrained to ask: "Are foreign and Indian media reporting on the same place?" A mainland journalist on assignment says she has encountered so much hatred for the media's part in painting a monochromatic picture, that she has had to apologise on behalf of her fraternity multiple times.

Ground zero in Kashmir

Therein lies the great paradox. For a whole month in the 21st century, Kashmiri journalists have worked in the 20th. They have not been able to freely use the phone and the Internet, write or transmit stories, print or distribute newspapers. They have been denied curfew passes, harassed at security checkpoints, made to delete photos and videos. They have had to beg travellers flying out of Srinagar to carry pen drives and printouts of mobile screenshots. Of the Valley's 174 dailies, fewer than 10 are being published; their e-papers are frozen in time, on August 5. One editor going abroad for training was stopped inside an airport after he had picked up his boarding passes.

Yet, with foreign correspondents being denied permits to go to Kashmir, American, Arabic, British, French and German media organisations have relied entirely on home-grown journalists for their stand-out coverage, which



begs the question as to why Indian mainstream media (MSM) vehicles have not been able to find the space or the resources for them. Or, why they have felt duty-bound to "broadcast sunshine stories that life is back to normal and getting better every day", in the words of a British academic. Either the Indian media is so true to its craft, or so craven, that not a single report has had to be disputed. For the first time since 2014, the parrot cannot hear the cries of the majority, Muslim in this case.

Near capitulation

It is not as if all the Indian media has buried the story: there have been tiny isles of valiance in an ocean of conformity. Just that, after the initial flurry, the giants are coasting in the routine and the official, as per the sage advice: "Some news is best not reported". Pockets of English print and digital journalism still offer some exceptions but large swathes of language media have served unvarnished, Islamophobic propaganda sans scrutiny. "Whatever [the] Indian media is reporting, the opposite is true," says one Kashmiri journalist. "Editors give directions to field reporters on the kind of soundbites they want from the ground to fit into their studio scripts. People oblige but viewers do not see the security men behind the camera."

A charitable explanation for the near-wholesale capitulation — the "underhand censorship" as one media watcher called it — is that, in the epoch of hyper-nationalism,

The larger picture about inclusive programming

India is in a unique position to scale up 'same language subtitling', improving both media access and reading literacy



BRIJI KOTHARI

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) recently mandated captioning for TV programming in order to make it accessible to the Deaf or Hard of Hearing population. The decision comes nearly four decades after the United States first implemented captioning for the same purpose. India's phase-wise implementation plan requires all 800 plus channels to start this on at least one programme a week, beginning August 15, 2019, Independence Day. By 2020, 10% of all programming must have captions; the figure is to grow by 10% every year, covering up to 50% of all programming by 2025.

The wellspring

The policy impetus for this decision is rooted in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 which made "sub-titles" on TV a right. The major challenge for the Ministry now is to ensure compliance by all channels, state and private, as set in the time table.

Captioning on TV for the aurally-challenged is not new. Many countries have followed the U.S.'s

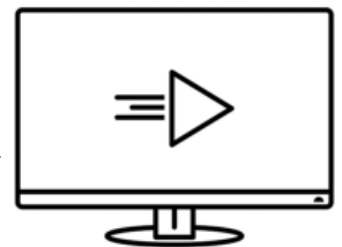
lead. Still, India's foray into TV captioning is significant for two reasons. It is one of the first major countries in the Global South to embrace captioning for media access, Brazil being the other one. But India is the first country where the importance of captioning, or Same Language Subtitling (SLS) has been established for mass reading literacy.

Key goals

At a time when countries are searching for scalable and evidence-based solutions to achieve their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SLS in India, if implemented as mandated, is poised to make a massive contribution to SDG-4 on quality education; this is because quality education, foundationally, depends on good reading skills.

India has a billion TV viewers. The average Indian watches TV for 3 hours and 46 minutes every day, according to the latest FICCI-EY Media & Entertainment report (2019). Film (24%) and general entertainment (53%) are the dominant genres. All of this content is now required to have SLS, in all languages.

Scientific evidence suggests that SLS on TV would serve three goals: daily and automatic reading literacy practice for one billion viewers, including 500 million weak-readers who would benefit the most; Indian language improvement for



one billion viewers, and, finally, media access for 65 million aurally challenged people.

All English channels in India have been implementing SLS for film and general entertainment content for over a decade. A fascinating study that compared 'dubbing' with 'subtitling' countries of English content on TV found that the population in the latter group has better English language proficiency. English channels in India added SLS on their own to help the Indian ear grasp unfamiliar English accents, causing a rise in viewership. Importantly, the English SLS experience establishes that it is not difficult for the entertainment industry to implement SLS system-wide, if it so desires.

Studies in India are at the global forefront of advancing SLS for reading literacy, having proven in several TV pilots that: SLS causes automatic and inescapable reading engagement even among very weak readers who can barely decode a few letters; regular exposure to SLS leads to measurable

reading skill improvement, and improved reading skills result in much higher rates of newspaper and other forms of reading. With frequent exposure to SLS over three to five years on content that people watch in any case, most weak readers can become functional and even good readers.

Inspired by the Indian experience, there is an active campaign in the United Kingdom to Turn-On-The-Subtitles (TOTS) by default in children's programming. Ironically, while India plans to follow in the footsteps of the U.S. and the U.K. to get started on captioning for media access, the U.K. is drawing on SLS work in India for reading literacy. India is in a unique position to scale up SLS on TV for both goals: media access and reading literacy.

The cost of SLS is negligible for new content when incorporated in the production process itself. To institutionalise SLS on TV, broadcast policy could, therefore, simply mandate it for all new content produced and telecast after a set date.

For more than a decade, the Annual Status of Education Reports (ASER) have found that, nationally, half the rural children in standard 5 cannot read standard 2-level text. Despite all the system-level inputs on quality education, this outcome measure has stubbornly resisted any noteworthy improvement. If India is to

achieve its commitment to SDG 4 on quality education, we need solutions, backed by evidence, and the collective power of the government, civil society, academia and the industry to implement them.

Despite Brexit and Hong Kong, Kashmir has sparked a scramble among international news media houses, each trying to scoop the other. As the communications blackout took hold, BBC Radio thumbed its nose at Delhi by increasing the duration of its Hindi and Urdu bulletins with the teasing tagline: "Neither Internet shutdowns nor power cuts can stop independent news". Meanwhile, the Indian MSM was resting its oars, having done its bit in the sacred task of manufacturing consent on the mainland. With the hashtag #KashmirWithModi trending on social media even without Kashmir being connected to the grid, Umberto Eco's warning of the "invasion of the idiots" has come good.

In the "Brave New World" of Kashmir, the Indian state has worked out the Huxleyan circuitry of how to make the media relay a unitary message without explicitly making it appear so. Therefore, a scarcity of dissent in spite of a plethora of evidence. It is a model that can be developed further and replicated anywhere else at short notice — within the pretence of a democratic framework.

In 1954, Gabriel García Márquez wrote: "Journalism is a biological necessity of humanity." To the eternal shame of the Republic, in 2019, from the judges of the Supreme Court to the former judge who heads the Press Council, from the Information and Broadcasting Minister to industry bodies, the open-ended trade fineprint "Conditions Apply" seems to be the operative clause. And to think that the train of events — from the BJP pulling out of the coalition, to the abrogation of Article 370 — was set off by the assassination of a journalist: Shujaat Bukhari, the founding editor of 'Rising Kashmir'. But, then, does a Chinar tree make noise when it falls, if the Indian media is not around?

Krishna Prasad is former Editor-in-Chief, 'Outlook' magazine, and former member, Press Council of India

Other platforms

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken the most important step toward mainstreaming TV captioning. Now, together with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, policy needs to mandate SLS on all digital Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms. Although translation subtitling is commonplace on OTT platforms and they offer SLS in English, none of them has SLS in the Indian languages, such as Hindi subtitles for Hindi content and so on. This is simply because policy does not yet require SLS on OTT.

Civil society has shown how SLS can be implemented cost-effectively. Academia has provided strong evidence that SLS works remarkably well to achieve the multiple goals of media access, reading literacy and language learning. The entertainment industry must play its part by turning on SLS for audio-visual content in all Indian languages. SLS is a right. Let us do the right thing.

Brij Kothari is on the faculty of IIM Ahmedabad and co-founder of PlanetRead and BookBox

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Amazon fires

We now know the obverse side of the "Amazon forest fire" story and the need to prioritise fossil fuel emission reduction (Editorial page, "The Amazon fires, an alarm that lacks proportion", September 10). However, we should not forget that the Amazon forests are the lungs of the earth and their conservation is a must. There can be no quibbling about this. The politics over the cause of the fires must end. And is there anyone who is championing the cause of the natives whose only source of livelihood is the Amazon forest? The world must get together

and get the Brazilian leader to see reason in saving this jewel of the earth.

PRAVEEN B.,
Hyderabad

Chief Justice's transfer

Too much is being read into the "unusual transfer" of the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani to the Meghalaya High Court (Editorial, September 10). Instead of looking at it as a step done with the best intention of leveraging her experience of having served at various courts across India, the hue and cry over it shows our scant regard for the collective decision of the collegium. After all, it

is just a transfer of a Chief Justice of one High Court to another. Criticising the prerogative of the collegium that is mandated to make such judicial transfers is uncalled for.

R. PRABHU RAJ,
Bengaluru

■ It is only the justice delivery system and the public at large that stand to lose, being unable to make use of Justice Tahilramani's vast judicial experience (Page 1, "Don't wish to discuss my transfer or resignation, says Tahilramani", September 10). Though it is arguable that "one high court is as good as any other", perhaps

the collegium could have considered her request to roll back its decision.

A. JAINULABDEEN,
Chennai

■ During my service as the head of a division in a Central government department, I often encountered several cases of refusal by staff under my charge to get transferred to "undesirable areas" — North-east India, Jammu and Kashmir, or even the Andaman Islands even though they were liable for transfer anywhere in India according to service rules. The person concerned would try to move heaven and earth to get the order

cancelled, with the result that posts in these areas remained unfilled, thereby delaying development. More often than not, such a transfer was not viewed as in public interest but as being biased, punitive in nature and unusual. There is need to change this attitude. Perhaps Justice Tahilramani would have sent out a powerful signal had she accepted the order.

N. RAMA RAO,
Chennai

New traffic rules

There needs to be a relook of the new traffic rules with their provision for huge fines and being enthusiastically enforced across India. If

deterrence is the main objective, then the fines too should be realistic. However, for dangerous or drunken driving or wilful violation of traffic rules, the fines may be reasonably higher. Nevertheless, it is a fact that the dismal condition of roads and the absence of signalling at many intersections are responsible for numerous accidents. Moreover, fines are seldom imposed for vehicles that emit plumes of smoke from tailpipes, those without functioning lights and horn or even visible number plates.

SHIVAJI K. MOITRA,
Kharagpur, West Bengal

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Facing up to reality

Given its achievements, ISRO should not hide setbacks with the cellophane of national pride



JACOB KOSHY

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has witnessed many trials and tribulations. In his book, *My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the 'Mangalyaan' Mission*, Chairman of ISRO (2009-2014) K. Radhakrishnan recounts a difficult moment before a crucial press conference. This was after a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) rocket carrying a very expensive GSAT-4 plummeted into the Bay of Bengal in 2010. He writes, “A teary-eyed Dr. Rangan [his senior colleague] came up and hugged me... This being a failure, I decided to face the media alone.”

ISRO has also faced ridicule over the years. A founding scientist at ISRO, R. Aravamudan, writes in his memoir about the reaction of his children after India finally placed a satellite in orbit using the Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV): “My little sons were thrilled. In their school the SLV had been dubbed as the Sea Loving Vehicle. And now their father’s organisation had been vindicated.” The SLV’s cousin, the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), quickly earned its own epithet, says Nambi Narayanan, the embattled ISRO scientist, in his book: “The vehicle was so aerodynamically jinxed that every time it was test launched it plunged into the sea. It came to be known as Always Sea Loving Vehicle.”

Changing the narrative

In all these accounts, there is no mention of ISRO facing budgetary cuts or opprobrium over the descending trajectories of its satellites. That is why the spectacle that unfurled last week, after India’s failure to soft-land the Vikram lander on the moon, raises the troubling question of why ISRO feels the need to airbrush setbacks by retrospectively altering the narrative. Less than 24 hours after ISRO Chairman K. Sivan made it apparent that the Vikram lander had ceased to touch down on predicted lines, Vikram went from being the heart of the mission to be-



“For decades India has been part of a rarefied space club that consists of only a handful of countries.” ISRO Chairman K. Sivan in Bengaluru. **APR**

ing only 5% of the mission’s objectives. “We have already done 90-95% of the technology demonstration,” Mr. Sivan said.

ISRO provides four reasons on its website for what made the Chandrayaan-2 mission “special”: This would be the first space mission to conduct a soft landing on the moon’s south pole, the first Indian expedition to attempt a landing on lunar surface using home-grown technology, the first Indian mission to explore lunar terrain with home-grown technology, and would make India only the fourth country to soft land on the moon.

Chandrayaan-2 was initially conceived as a collaborative mission between India and Russia. India was to make the orbiter spacecraft and launch (by GSLV) and Russia was to provide the lander and rover. Russia then said that it would only provide the lander. Later Russia pulled out of the mission and India ultimately decided to design a lander and rover on its own. This delayed the Chandrayaan-2 mission by nearly four years and advanced India’s Mars mission. Therefore, it’s hard to understand how such an iconic module that shows India’s ability to design a space vehicle suddenly became only 5% of the overall mission objective. Remember, it was Vikram’s camera that sent “beautiful images of earth” as viewed from space on August 4.

With its ‘special sauce’ missing, Chandrayaan-2 is now in the league

of its predecessor Chandrayaan-1, launched in 2008, which included a lunar orbiter and a moon impact probe that crash-landed on the lunar equatorial surface. The key difference is that Chandrayaan-2, propelled by the GSLV MkIII rocket, went all the way into a lunar orbit. This proved that ISRO had mastered the nuances of the cryogenic engine, which allows rockets capable of carrying heavier payloads to be designed. This is going to be what truly propels India into the league of space powers.

It is puzzling then that Prime Minister Narendra Modi opted to view this sensitive failure-prone segment of the launch, the liftoff, far away from Sriharikota, but chose to be with the scientists only at the landing, the 5% tail end of the mission.

The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter carries eight instruments on board to photograph the moon in much better detail than previous missions. While the focus over the last few days has been on Vikram, there’s no information yet on what these sophisticated instruments have discovered so far. Soon after the Vikram debacle, ISRO announced that the mission life of the orbiter had now dramatically increased to seven years from the projected one or two years. As these are futuristic projections, it would be premature to assume that 100% of the orbiter’s stated objectives have been met, especially because ISRO doesn’t specify how it attributes

weightage to different aspects of Chandrayaan-2. While every screw is critical to the success of a space mission, it doesn’t follow that each of them carries equal weight to determining the overall success of the mission.

A rarefied club

It is in the nature of organisations everywhere, particularly when their projects involve significant public money, to spin news in the light of bad press. However, in spite of its delayed launch, Chandrayaan-2 has never had to face negative publicity. Even before the GSLV embarked on its journey, it was already drilled into our minds that our expectations should be low. We were informed, for instance, that the success rate of moon-lander missions historically was only about 46%. We were told that the odds of failure were high, but that India would join the rarefied club of nations that had achieved this feat – the U.S., Russia and China – if it tasted success. It needs to be underlined that India for decades has been part of a rarefied space club that consists of only a handful of countries capable of launching home-made satellites aboard home-grown rockets. Therefore the only real ‘pressure’ that ISRO faced with Chandrayaan-2 was to conform to social media-fuelled national pride.

ISRO’s founding Chairman Vikram Sarabhai had once said, “We do not have the fantasy of competing with the economically advanced nations in the exploration of the moon or the planets or manned space-flight... We must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real problems of man and society.” While that may be a dated quote, the operative word is ‘competing’.

ISRO’s successes are built on the altar of multiple failures improved over five decades. It still has a long way to go – from successfully grooming a private sector industry capable of providing many more jobs to ensuring that it maintains its meritocratic work, culture and ability to hire talented engineers who can be invested in its work. While getting the world to share in its success is important, ISRO only needs to explain its setbacks, not hide them with the cellophane of national pride.

jacob.koshy@thehindu.co.in

One year after ‘Navtej Johar’, imagining an equality law

Such a law should impose obligations of equality and non-discrimination on all persons



JAYNA KOTHARI

In 1994 when I started law school, if someone had told me that same-sex relationships or the right to gender identity would be recognised, I would have shook my head in disbelief. Twenty-five years ago, there was no articulation of the constitutional rights to sexual orientation and gender identity in India. A challenge to Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was nowhere in the horizon.

Is it not therefore quite remarkable that we are celebrating the first anniversary of the decriminalisation of Section 377 now? To see this battle start, be part of the fight and witness it being won in one’s lifetime is unbelievable. We have moved from a society where transgender, intersex, lesbian, gay, bisexual and gender non-confirming persons were treated as criminals to the constitutional recognition of the rights to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The recognition of these rights impacts not only LGBTI persons, but everyone, for it protects all our rights of self-expression, equality and autonomy.

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Navtej Johar v. Union of India* not only laid the ground for stronger equality recognition such as the judgment in the *Joseph Shine* case decriminalising adultery (2018) and the judgment in the Sabarimala case recognising the rights of women to enter religious shrines (2018), but also led to the decriminalising of same-sex intercourse in other jurisdictions such as the High Court of Botswana and inspired a constitutional challenge to Section 377A in Singapore.

Steps for equality

Decriminalisation is the first step towards recognition of equal rights, but the two cannot be conflated. The *Navtej* decision has to be followed by positive steps for equality. Transgender persons still face a number of legal barriers and LGBTI people continue to face discrimination, exclusion, abuse and harassment at work, school, health care settings and in public places. One reason for this is that we still do not have an equality and anti-discrimination statute that would protect persons from discrimination on different protected grounds. The only statute which is

close is the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. However, this only addresses discrimination against persons with disabilities in the public sector and does not address the private sector. Legislation such as the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 make certain caste discriminatory acts criminal offences but do not provide civil remedies of injunctions or damages for acts of discrimination. We have the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, but this is limited to sexual harassment at work. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 addresses only transgender and intersex persons’ rights and there is severe criticism of this Bill. The rights of equality and non-discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation are not covered under this Bill.

An overarching legislation

The need of the hour is an overarching legislation that guarantees equality to all persons on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, sex, caste, religion, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy, nationality and other grounds. The law should impose obligations of equality and non-discrimination on all persons, public and private, and in the areas of education, employment, healthcare, land and housing and access to public places. It should provide for civil remedies including injunctions to stop discriminatory behaviour, costs and damages, and positive action to make reparations.

Most importantly we need an equality law to define what equality would encompass. In the current situation, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir where people are arrested and communication channels have been blocked, an equality law may seem to be a luxury when basic freedoms of people are taken away. Here the Supreme Court comes to our rescue because it held in its privacy judgment in *K.S. Puttuswamy v. Union of India* (2017) that equality and liberty cannot be separated, and equality encompasses the inclusion of dignity and basic freedoms. Situations like what we see in J&K also show us that we need an equality law that not only addresses discrimination against individuals but also addresses structural forms of discrimination and exclusion. On the first anniversary of *Navtej*, the time is right for these reforms, so that we are able to see these battles being won in the next 25 years.

Jayna Kothari is a Senior Advocate

All the President’s men

The recent selection of Governors calls for a review of the gubernatorial appointments process

MANURAJ SHUNMUGASUNDARAM

The recent appointment of five Governors by the President must be viewed with grave scepticism. By nominating persons who are deeply embedded within the Bharatiya Janata Party ecosystem, the Union Government has sent the clear and ominous signal that constitutional principles and judicial diktats are secondary to the propagation of the party’s ideology. This places the entire edifice of the Constitution in an extremely precarious position and calls for a review of the process of gubernatorial appointments.

The President appointed Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Bandaru Dattatreya, Arif Mohammed Khan and Tamilisai Soundararajan as Governors, and transferred Kalraj Mishra from Himachal Pradesh to Rajasthan. Mr. Mishra had assumed office at the Raj Bhavan in Shimla as recently as July 22, 2019. Seen as a whole, all these appointees have recent, strong and uncompromising links with the BJP. Mr. Koshyari is a former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and was a member of the 16th Lok Sabha; Mr. Mishra and Mr. Dattatreya served in the Council of Ministers under Prime Minister Narendra Modi; and Mr. Khan and Ms. Soundararajan unsuccessfully contested the 2004 and 2019 elections, respectively, on BJP tickets.

Constitutional position

The process of gubernatorial appointments is anything but transparent. We know little more than the fact that the President has appointed a person as Governor “by warrant under his hand and seal”. The Constituent Assembly debates on this issue reveal divergent views and considerable deliberation. On May 30 1949, Sardar Hukam Singh had argued in favour of providing a panel of names, elected by the State Legislature, for the President to choose from. Fellow member, Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar backed the appointment of a Governor by the President with the hope that the “Cabinet at the Centre would also be guided by the advice” of the State Cabinet.

Adding to the debate, G. Durgai Bai spoke in favour of an appointment mechanism in order to “place

the Governor above party politics, above factions and not to subject him to the party affairs”. Supporting this proposition, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru indicated his preference for a Governor who would be “acceptable to the Government of the province and yet he must not be known to be a part of the party machine of that province”. A cursory look at the Governors who have been appointed since 1950, under the Constitution, tells us that the fear expressed by the various members of the Constituent Assembly was not imaginary.

Law on appointments

A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court looked at the scope of the Union’s power to remove Governors in the landmark case of *B.P. Singhal v. Union of India* (2010). In this case, the Supreme Court spoke about the dual role of the Governor – as the constitutional head of the State government and as a vital link between the State and Union governments. Elucidating the specific functions of the Governor, the Supreme Court, speaking through Justice R.V. Raveendran, said that the Governor is “not an employee of the Union Government, nor the agent of the party in power nor required to act under the dictates of political parties”. The Court further anticipated that there “may be occasions when he may have to be an impartial or neutral Umpire where the views of the Union Government and State Governments are in conflict”.

Over the years, the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations and the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution have reiterated that the Governor appointee “should be a person who has not taken too great a part in politics generally, and particularly in the recent past”. Unfortunately, the President has overlooked this important recommendation which is critical to the existence of a federal and constitutional democracy. As such, this reignites the debate around the office of the Governor, its appointments and processes involved.

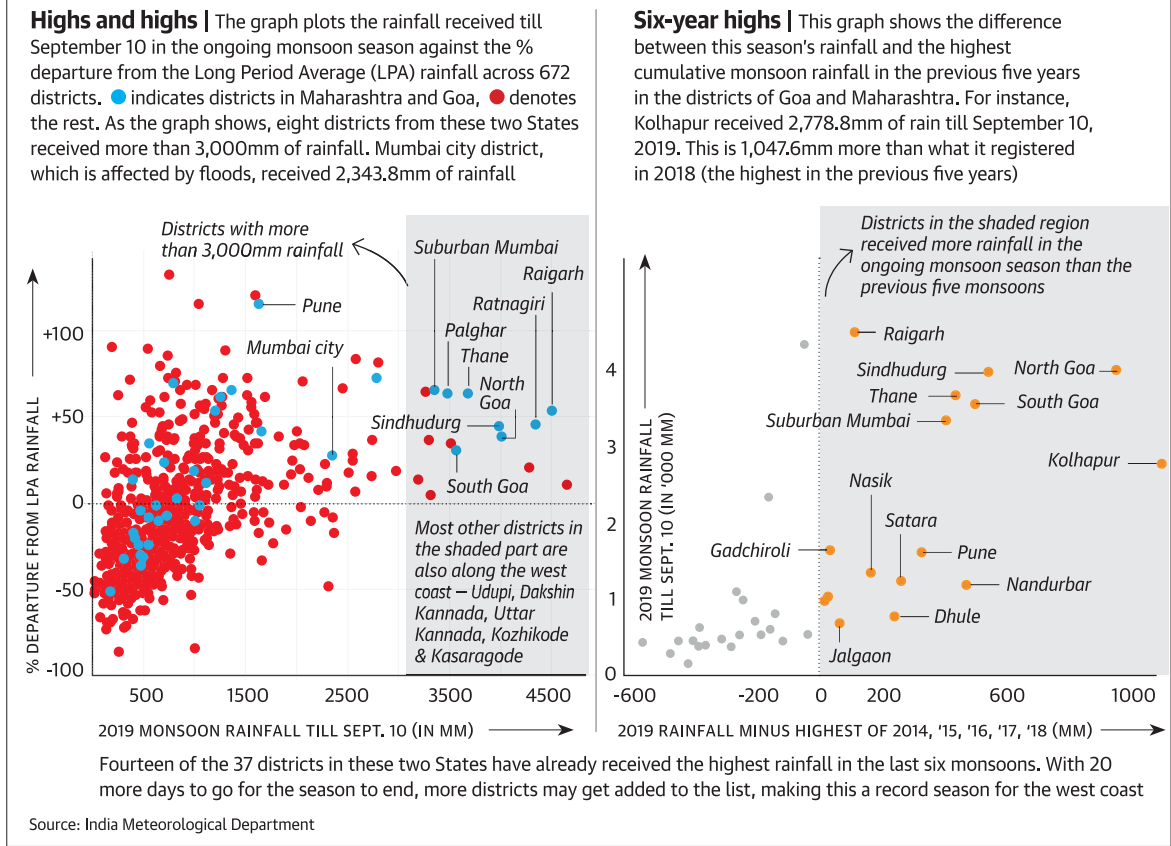
Manuraj Shunmugasundaram is an advocate and spokesperson, DMK



DATA POINT

Wild wild west coast

Many districts along the western coast, particularly in Maharashtra and Goa, have received large amounts of rainfall in the ongoing monsoon season. Of the 15 districts that have received more than 3,000mm, eight are located in these two States. Twenty days are left in the season, but some districts have already exceeded the six-year high. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan** and **Sumant Sen**



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 11, 1969

Israel strikes at Suez

A major Israeli raid on Egyptian positions on the coast of the Gulf of Suez seems to have been a reprisal for the Commando operations launched by the U.A.R. forces across the Canal in the campaign for “the liberation of Sinai.” Without assessing the claims and counterclaims of either side, it is worth noting that this has been the biggest Israeli operation since the recent war in West Asia. The Israeli Prime Minister has stated that the Egyptians have been launching attacks in defiance of the cease-fire. Gen. Odd Bull, the head of the United Nations Observer Team, is rushing to the area to collect information from the observer posts along the Suez Canal. Meanwhile, Cairo seems to have taken the line that the cease-fire line has no validity in view of the Israeli attacks on power stations and other facilities in Egyptian territory. Thus a situation is developing which might escalate into a full-scale war unless a truce can be arranged.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 11, 1919.

The Civil Disobedience Movement.

Sir, – when Mr. Gandhi suspended the civil disobedience movement in July last, he did so, I trust, under the full belief, that the leaders in this Province and elsewhere who had advised him not to resume the Satyagraha campaign, would do their part of the work and strain every nerve by the orderly methods of agitation and secure the repeal of the Rowlatt laws. It is nearly 2 months since the movement is kept, when Mr. Gandhi will resume it. But there is no doubt that he will offer Satyagraha, so long the Rowlatt laws are in the Indian statute book. His unbending attitude is clearly manifest to the whole nation by the illuminating letters he wrote recently to Messrs. Arundale, and Abdul Aziz and the most thoughtful reply he sent to the “Pennsylvania” in the “Times of India”. The articles which appear in the “Young India” also reveal to us more and more the nature in which Satyagraha will be offered, when it will be resumed. In reply to the untenable positions taken by Mr. Montague recently when he said in the House of Commons that he believed that the powers given to the Executive by Rowlatt Acts were necessary, Mr. Gandhi wrote in the columns of the “Young India,” that if the Rowlatt Act is to be persisted in, the Government must be prepared for Civil Resistance of a stubborn character – a resistance which shall be perfectly respectful but which shall be unbending.

FROM PAGE ONE

J&K Block Development Council polls soon

Mr. Shah has promised more funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). With leaders of most political parties under detention, it isn't clear to what extent the traditional political parties will be able to participate in the polls.

"The two regional parties, the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had boycotted the panchayat polls too, but it went ahead and was a success. Our assessment is that there are many who wish to partici-

pate in the political process and would gladly do so in the absence of the old lot of MLAs," said a source in the government.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, meanwhile, during a meeting with sarchanches from Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi on Tuesday said that "holding elections to local bodies every five years should be made mandatory" and that there "should be no discretion or scope for the States to either postpone or advance them."

Curbs in Srinagar to ban Muharram processions

An official said the Shia Muslims were confined to their localities and allowed to organise smaller gatherings in local Imambaras. No major procession was reported from the traditional routes of Alamgari Bazar, Nigeen or Bohri Kadal. Locals said devotees made an attempt to defy the ban at Alamgari but were contained by the security personnel.

"It's the first time in three decades that processions were disallowed in Srinagar," said Ashiq Hussian, a local. The government has decided to ban all Muharram processions in Srinagar "to avoid any loss of life and property" this year.

Smaller processions were allowed in parts of Budgam and Ganderbal districts in central Kashmir.

Imran's party leader seeks asylum in India

Mr. Kumar said the minorities in Pakistan were being deprived of their rights and people who raised their voice were being apprehended.

"I request Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder

Singh to ease visa conditions so that people suffering in Pakistan can come to India," he said.

"We hoped Pakistan's fate will change after Imran Khan took over as Prime Minister, but he has failed to deliver."

India counters Pakistan's statements on J&K

India reminded the UN body about its free media, vibrant civil society and institutional framework that upholds human rights in the country.

The Indian official in her submission avoided naming Pakistan but pointed at cross-border terrorism emanating from that country

that has hurt India, saying, "Those who abet, finance, and support terrorism in any form on territory under their control are in truth the worst violators of human rights."

India also called on the UNHRC to seek global action against terrorists and state sponsors of terror groups.

India should not have joined U.S. ban: Iran

In addition, Iran is now discussing an LNG pipeline to China along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as India is not expected to retain its prior interest in LNG imports from Iran. "If India wants energy security, it should prefer Iran as a dependable supplier," said Mr. Chegeni.

"We love the Indian people. But we cannot force somebody to love us. The Government of India has to decide according to its national interest. Just as the Chinese have," he added.

During a visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif

to Beijing last month, China and Iran agreed to upgrade their security partnership with a 25-year road map, which included, according to reports, massive Chinese pledges of \$280 billion towards developing Iran's oil, gas and petrochemicals resources, and \$120 billion for upgrading Iran's transport and manufacturing infrastructure.

"We are ready to have the same agreement as with China, with India, maybe even more than that," the Iranian Ambassador said, adding, "The doors are open, but opportunities won't wait."

SBI to rejig repo-linked home loan product

The RBI has allowed banks to choose from four benchmarks which include yields on Government of India T-bills, among others. Banks will be free to decide the spread over of the external benchmark.

While such products are aimed at faster transmission of monetary policy rates, rating agency Moody's said the products are credit negative for India's banks as it will limit their flexibility in managing interest rate risk.

According to the rating agency, there is no direct link between lending rates and funding costs with such a product, unlike the pre-

sent system of loan pricing, which is based on marginal cost of funds.

"This will expose banks to asymmetrical movements in the cost of funding and loan yields, thus exposing them to interest rate risks," Moody's said.

"It is not clear if banks will be able to mitigate this risk by linking the interest rates on CASA [current and savings account deposit] deposits to an external benchmark. With interest rates already low on these deposits, a bank is unlikely to want them any lower as it will risk losing customers," Moody's said.

Dip and rise in GDP part of growth: Sitharaman

Our full focus now is to see how we can raise it, says Finance Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Amid concerns about the country's dipping Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the first quarter of FY20, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Tuesday that the dip and rise in GDP was part and parcel of growth and that the government was acting to boost the economy.

"About GDP growth rate reaching 5% in one quarter, I don't want to negate or compare it with anything else earlier. But, it is useful for us to remember that such dips and rise in GDP growth do happen. I'm not underestimating it and we are not sitting without responding to do something to boost it," Ms. Sitharaman told reporters.

Addressing an event on

'Furthering India's Development – 100 days of Bold Initiatives & Decisive Actions' of the Centre, she said there have been instances in the past when the GDP has dipped too.

"It is part of the growth [story]. That sometimes it dips within a quarter and rises again. Our attempts now and our full focus now is to see how we can raise it," she said.

To a query on the financial experts' criticism of the Union government for receiving payouts to the tune of ₹1.76 lakh crore from the Reserve Bank of India, she said the government had also acted on the advice of a committee of experts.

As for the growing distress in the automobile sector, she said her Ministry was continuously engaging in talks with



In the spotlight: Nirmala Sitharaman. ■ M. VEDHAN

the industry to see how best it could help it.

Though there has been demand for a cut in GST rates in the automobile sector, she said only the GST Council can take a decision.

To a question, she said the rate of bank mergers would be decided by the boards of the respective banks.

She said she has appointed

a task force to identify various infrastructure projects where the government could pump in funds to boost consumption.

The Centre would spend funds up to ₹1 lakh crore for infrastructure in the next five years.

Ms. Sitharaman made a presentation on the BJP government's performance

'Millennial mindset is a factor'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The mindset of the millennials, who seem not to be inclined towards committing on EMI towards buying an automobile, is among the factors that is influencing the automobile industry, which is witnessing a major drop in the sales, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters

here on Tuesday. Ms. Sitharaman said the factors included the transition to BS VI vehicles, registration fees and also the mindsets of millennials.

"Some studies do tell us, the mindsets of the millennials, who are now preferring not to commit an EMI towards buying an automobile instead would prefer to have Ola or Uber or take the metro," she said.

Sonia meets Pawar to discuss seat-sharing deal

Proposed meeting with Scindia does not take place

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday to discuss the seat-sharing arrangement for the Assembly elections in Maharashtra.



Sonia Gandhi

But the other anticipated meeting between Ms. Gandhi and former Congress MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, regarding choosing a new party chief for Congress-ruled Madhya Pradesh (MP) didn't take place.

Mr. Scindia, who has been made the chairman of the screening committee of the screening committee for the Maharashtra elections, however presided over a meeting to shortlist nominees.

The Congress and the NCP have already decided to fight the elections under a coalition.

Amid defections of the NCP leaders to the BJP, Mr. Pawar met the Congress chief to finalise a broad arrangement for the polls likely to held in October-November.

Sources claimed that they discussed consolidating the anti BJP-Shiv Sena forces and could mull over including Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) and the Left parties in its alliance. The talk of the MNS being part of the anti-BJP alliance had gained ground when the MNS chief had called on Ms. Gandhi at her residence in July.

However, State level Congress leaders are believed to have expressed reservations over the MNS and a final decision on a grand alliance would be taken after consultations with them.

Sources said detailed discussions over specific seats would continue for the next few days before a final tie-up plan was made public.

Urmila Matondkar resigns from Congress

Actor cites lack of action on her letter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Congress Lok Sabha candidate from Mumbai North Urmila Matondkar resigned from the party on Tuesday. Her resignation has come as jolt as several senior leaders have already quit the party and switched to either Shiv Sena or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the run-up to the State Assembly polls, party leaders said.



Urmila Matondkar

She said she was quitting after no action was taken on her recent letter to the then Mumbai Congress President Milind Deora on the "lack of leadership and vision" in the party. The actor said that to her "utter dismay", the letter was "conveniently" leaked to the media. "Some persons specifically named in my letter for the shoddy performance, ... were rewarded with newer

positions," she said.

Senior party leaders said they had not accepted the actor's resignation yet.

Reacting to her resignation, Mr. Deora tweeted, "After @UrmilaMatondkar decided to fight LS elections from Mumbai North, I supported her campaign wholeheartedly as @INC Mumbai President ... Fully agree that Mumbai North leaders MUST be held accountable!"

Archbishop visits Jallianwalla Bagh

He terms the 1919 atrocity 'one of a number of deep stains on British history'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Reverend Justin Welby, on Tuesday visited the Jallianwalla Bagh in Punjab's Amritsar and said visiting the site of a horrific massacre was deeply humbling and provoked feelings of profound shame.



Humble offering: Rev. Justin Welby paying homage at the Jallianwalla Bagh memorial in Amritsar on Tuesday. ■ AP

Prayer for healing

After paying homage to those killed in Jallianwalla Bagh, Reverend Welby, the global head of the Anglican Communion, wrote in the visitors' book – "It is deeply humbling and provokes feelings of profound shame for me as British Christian to visit this place that witnessed such an atrocity over a hundred years ago. My first response is pray to my loving

heavenly father for healing to those still suffering grief, loss and anger. That prayer to god for healing then compels me to commit to actions that may seek to bridge divides of culture and religion that we may together root

out hatred and seek the common good."

Later, he took to Facebook about Jallianwalla Bagh and posted: "I feel a deep sense of grief having visited the site of the horrific Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre today in

Amritsar, where a great number of Sikhs, as well as Hindus, Muslims and Christians, were shot dead by British troops in 1919."

"I have no status to apologise on behalf of the U.K., its government or its history. But I am personally very sorry for this terrible atrocity."

He wrote, "Coming here arouses a sense of profound shame at what happened in this place. It is one of a number of deep stains on British history. The pain and grief that has transcended the generations since must never be dismissed or denied."

On April 13, 1919, hundreds were killed and more than 1,200 injured after British troops led by Reginald Dyer opened fire on a peaceful gathering at Jallianwalla Bagh in Amritsar.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying tribute to Arun Jaitley at a condolence meeting on Saturday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Leaders pay tributes to Arun Jaitley

Modi says he lost a 'very close friend'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday led leaders from several political parties in paying tributes to the late Arun Jaitley, admitting that he felt the loss of his "very close friend" every moment and that he would "always regret" not being able to pay his last respects to Jaitley. Prime Minister Modi was on a three nation tour when Jaitley passed away on August 24.

Mr. Modi described the former Finance Minister as an "invaluable gem" in India's public life.

As a member of his Cabinet, the former Finance Minister would give valuable

inputs because of his knowledge of Parliamentary and government history, Mr. Modi said, adding that he would miss him and his "encyclopaedic" knowledge.

Mr. Modi recalled that Jaitley and he would share a room during the party's conventions, despite the latter being able to afford five-star accommodation, in order to keep to organisational discipline.

Home Minister Amit Shah said Jaitley supported him "like a rock" during his difficult times, an apparent reference to the period when the Gujarat leader was embroiled in a fake encounter case in which he was later discharged.

RSS softens its line on gay marriage

New book on roadmaps for 21st century says it is willing to discuss issue in future

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

A new book on the challenges of the 21st Century through the prism of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) argues that while currently the organisation is not in favour of gay marriage (while in favour of reading down of Article 377), the matter "can be discussed in future."



Sunil Ambekar

The book, *The RSS: Roadmaps For The 21st Century* (Rupa Books), is authored by Sunil Ambekar, who is the organising national secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the RSS.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Ambekar, who occupies an important position in the

RSS hierarchy, said the organisation was clear that it did not oppose the decriminalisation of gay sex but had reservations about institutionalisation of gay marriage, adding however, that the issue "could be discussed in future" and was not a closed chapter.


The BJP-led Union government had not opposed the reading down of Article 377 and the RSS had also supported that view last year when the Supreme Court finally read down the Article.

Future challenges

Mr. Ambekar's book, in fact looks at the challenges of 21st century social and cultural life and what should be the RSS' response to the same. It has chapters on the ABVP's work among the transgender community, and a big emphasis on the issue of social justice, how caste disparities are leading to caste being irrelevant as a scheme of social categorisation in India. The RSS, argues the book, has scope for

the inclusion of all categories of people in its fold.

An important chapter of the book is about the future shape of society, due to urbanisation, tackling social anomie that arises out of urban living and changes in the nature of community and family. Instead of commenting on the virtues of joint or nuclear families, the book says that fostering a sense of community, in any place, is the key to lessening social alienation. "The West developed but at the cost of the environment, family, happiness and world peace, our challenge is to find a better way to be, in this movement towards developed societies," he said. The book is to be out on October 1.



APPEAL

4 years old Kirthik needs your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. He suffers from Relapsed T Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and requires **Rs. 6,00,000/-** towards Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D/D/NEFT Transfer (Syndicate) to: **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** (Syndicate No: 60182010083310, IFSC No: SYNB0006018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Please give us your E-mail ID.

All Correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd., Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324. E-mail ID: womenswelfare syndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfare syndicate.org

WWS

IN BRIEF

Punjab CM for visa-free entry to Kartarpur

CHANDIGARH
Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh will take up the issue of visa-free entry of pilgrims through the Kartarpur Corridor with the External Affairs Minister, an official statement said on Tuesday. The decision was taken by the State Cabinet at a meeting chaired by the CM in Sultanpur Lodhi.

Army holds simultaneous exercises in Russia, U.S.

NEW DELHI
Amid tensions with Pakistan, an Indian Army contingent is in Russia for Exercise Tsentr 2019, which began on Tuesday. The Armies of China and Pakistan, besides those of the Central Asian Republics, are taking part. At the same time, another contingent is in the U.S. for Yudh Abhyas, an annual bilateral exercise. Later this week, the Army will host the first conference of military medicine for the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation members.

Hooda granted LoP status in Haryana

CHANDIGARH
Days after being declared as the Congress Legislative Party leader in Haryana, Speaker Kanwar Pal on Tuesday granted Bhupinder Singh Hooda the status of Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. The Speaker took the decision on a letter sent by newly appointed Haryana Congress president Kumari Selja. The Congress has 17 MLAs in the State Assembly. PTI

Start-up scenario is not rosy: report

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Not everything is good with the start-up ecosystem in the country, according to a report by TIE Delhi-NCR and consulting firm Zinnov released on Tuesday.

The report pointed out that the pace of new start-ups being founded has slowed over the past two years across India.

The trend is also reflected in the new start-ups coming up in Delhi NCR region.

From a record 6,679 start-ups founded across India in 2015, the pace slowed to 5875 start-ups in 2016; 3,478 in 2017 and 2036 in 2018. In the first half of 2019, the number stood at 800.

The start-ups in Delhi-NCR have a very varied mix, TIE Delhi-NCR president Rajan Anandan said. "Unlike other regions, the 10 unicorns that we have in Delhi-NCR, they're not from one particular sector, they are from fin-tech, e-commerce, logistics, food, and energy," Mr. Anandan said. Within Delhi-NCR, Delhi accounted for 4,491 start-ups, Gurugram 1,544 and Noida 1,004.

Centre moves to sell data from Smart Cities project

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Starting with an open data platform for the 100 cities that are a part of its Smart Cities Mission by 2020, the government is planning to make a wide range of data – from health, education, finances to social aspects – of all 4,041 urban local bodies public by 2024 and eventually monetising it.

Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) officials said on Monday that the open data platform for the 100 cities would be expanded to cover 500 cities by 2022 and all urban centres in the country by 2024. The India Urban

Modi, Oli open cross-border pipeline

India-Nepal relationship will continue to intensify across multiple sectors, says PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The India-Nepal relationship will continue to intensify across multiple sectors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday during the video-link launch of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj energy pipeline during which he was invited to visit Nepal by Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli.

"Prime Minister Modi said the 69-km Motihari-Amlekhgunj pipeline, having a capacity of 2 million metric ton per annum, will provide cleaner petroleum products at affordable cost to the people of Nepal. He welcomed



Close bond: PM Narendra Modi and Nepalese counterpart K.P. Sharma Oli during the video-link launch of the pipeline. •PTI

the announcement made by Prime Minister Oli to reduce the price of petroleum products by ₹2 per litre in Ne-

pal," said a press release from the office of the Prime Minister of India.

The project is one of the

several connectivity schemes that India and Nepal have been planning for years, and was inked in 2015.

A test supply was carried out in July after which both sides agreed to operationalise the energy route, a first time effort in South Asia. Sources say it will help Nepal ensure stable energy supply for its domestic market.

The project is being led by the Indian Oil Corporation and the Nepal Oil Corporation, which built the infrastructure in Amlekhgunj.

Mr. Modi accepted the invitation from his Nepali counterpart to visit Kathmandu.

India, Pak. tensions a bit less heated now: Trump

Willing to help, U.S. President reiterates

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

American President Donald Trump on Monday again offered to help with the "conflict" between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

"Well, India and Pakistan are having a conflict over Kashmir, as you know. I think it's a little bit less heated right now than it was two weeks ago, and I'm willing to help them. I get along with both countries very well. I'm willing to help them if they want. They know that that is out there," Mr. Trump said to a question, while addressing reporters here.

Mr. Trump had set off a

diplomatic kerfuffle between India and the U.S. when he said Prime Minister Modi had asked him to mediate in the dispute. These comments were made during Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's July visit to the White House, prior to India's abrogation of special status for Kashmir.

Since then Mr. Trump has met Mr. Modi at the G7 meetings in Biarritz, France) and had telephone calls with him and Mr. Khan. At a joint press interaction prior to the Modi-Trump bilateral, Mr. Modi reiterated that Kashmir was a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

CPEC is on our territory, India reminds China

MEA rejects reference to Kashmir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday rejected the reference to Jammu and Kashmir in the latest China-Pakistan joint statement and called on both countries to stop activities related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

"We reject the reference to Jammu and Kashmir in the joint statement issued by China and Pakistan after the recent visit of Chinese Foreign Minister. J&K is an integral part of India. India has consistently expressed concerns to both China and Pakistan on the projects in so-called China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor, which is on the territory of India that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan since 1947," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Pakistan over the weekend and discussed regional issues. China reiterated its support to Pakistan to protect its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

"India is resolutely opposed to any actions by other countries to change the status quo in PoK. We call on the parties concerned to cease such actions," said the spokesperson.

Resurrected 'Golden Arrows' to fly Rafale jets

First batch of the aircraft is scheduled to arrive in May 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Tuesday resurrected the Air Force Station (AFS) Ambala-based 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows', which will operate the first squadron of Rafale fighter jets in the near future.

The first batch of Rafale jets is scheduled to be formally handed over to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 8 in France, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The jets are set to arrive in India in May 2020.

The resurrection ceremony was presided over by IAF chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) B.S. Dhanoa. Incidentally, he had commanded the 17 Squadron during the Kargil conflict in 1999. On December 31, 2011 the squadron was 'number plated' after the Russian Mig-21 jets that it flew were decommissioned.

The 17 Squadron was



Giving wings: Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa after reviving the 17 Squadron at the Ambala airbase on Tuesday. •PTI

raised at Ambala on October 01, 1951 under the command of Flight Lieutenant D.L. Springett and was initially equipped with the Harvard-II B aircraft.

"By November 1955, Squadron converted fully to De Havilland Vampire and by 1957, Hawker Hunter aircraft were flown by the 'Golden Arrows'. The Squadron converted to the Mig-21 M in 1975," the IAF said in a statement.

Between October 2019 and May 2020, three batches

– each comprising eight IAF pilots along with engineers and technicians – would undergo advanced training on the Indian Rafale jets in France, a defence official said. So far, three IAF pilots and two technical officers have trained on the French Air Force's Rafales as per the terms of the contract.

The Indian standard Rafale, incorporating all the India Specific Enhancements (ISEs), would be operationally ready, latest by September 2021.

Rights of citizens will be protected: Smriti

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The interest and rights of every Indian citizen will be protected and those who have illegally entered the country will be dealt with as per provisions of the law, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani said here on Tuesday.

Ms. Irani, who was in the

city to highlight the achievements of 100 days work of the Narendra Modi-led government, was responding to questions on the implementation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in West Bengal.

"The BJP is dedicated to protecting the rights of citizens of India, the BJP has articulated its stand against il-

legal infiltration on many platforms," the Union Minister said, adding that Home Minister Amit Shah has said on several occasions that rights of every citizen will be protected.

Ms. Irani's comments comes in the backdrop of a resolution passed by the West Bengal Assembly against NRC in Assam.

Kashmir apples to escape lockdown via Central route

Government to procure produce directly from farmers

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Kashmir's famed apple is battling to get exported outside the State this year. From suspected militants campaigning against the fruit's export to the government's inability to rope in enough trucks, the Centre's Special Market Intervention Price Scheme (MISP) is now providing much-needed assistance to growers' hopes of salvaging the ₹16,000 crore apple industry amid the continuous lockdown.

Chief Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam announced the government's plan to procure almost 12 lakh metric tonnes of apple this season, under the MISP, with the help of the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India.

"Nearly 60% of the estimated annual apple production will be procured from the apple growers near their door steps," said Mr. Subrahmanyam. "It's expected to enhance growers' income by about ₹2,000 crore," he added.

Kashmir produced 20 lakh metric tonnes of apple in 2018, contributing 73% to



A farmer picks apples in his orchard in Pulwama district, in this file photo. •NISSAR AHMAD

pore, Srinagar's Parimpora, Shopian and Anantnag's Batengo.

Gunmen oppose exports

The night-time functioning of the Sopore mandi had also come to a grinding halt after four civilians were shot at on September 6 by suspected militants "for their attempts to revive the export".

The police claim there was a pattern in the threats issued to the fruit growers. According to the police, gunmen destroyed several orchards and beat up several growers in Shopian. "Militants are directing orchardists to stop exporting apple this year in a bid to sever all ties with mainland India," said a police officer.

Caught in the crosshairs, fruit grower Nazeer Ahmad (name changed), told *The Hindu* that apple should be "a conflict-neutral commodity". "The government's highway ban earlier this year had already dented profits on the early crop. The apple is the mainstay of farmers' incomes. It needs to be protected, otherwise a large population of farmers will slip into penury," he said.

the total apple production in the country, according to officials. The period of procurement would be for six months, starting September, at a cost of ₹8,000 crore.

This year, the State government failed to rope in enough trucks for apple export after the August decision to revoke J&K's special status, followed by a lockdown and communications blockade. An official said 400 to 700 trucks were plying against the demand of 1,200 trucks per day, up from 120 trucks last month, according to officials. It had resulted in the closure and poor flow of fruit from the main mandis (wholesale market) at Baramulla's So-

APSRTC
Request for proposal (RFP) for selection of bus operator for procurement, operation & maintenance of Fully Built AC Electric buses on Gross Cost Contract Model.

APSRTC invites e-Tenders with reverse auction from the interested, qualified Bidders/ Consortiums for procurement, operation & maintenance of Operator owned 9M/12M Fully Built AC Electric buses (350 Nos. in 5 Cities (lots) for operation in scheduled routes of APSRTC on Gross Cost Contract model under Phase-II of FAME India Scheme. (1) Interested parties may download RFP and Concessional Agreement from Website :/tender.apspcprocurement.gov.in from 11.09.2019 onwards. (2) Last date of submission for e-bids 24.10.2019 by 17.00 Hrs. (3) Bids shall be submitted online only in the portal:/tender.apspcprocurement.gov.in. (4) For full details visit our website:/www.apsrctc.ap.gov.in/tenders. (5) APSRTC reserves the right to cancel the notification without assigning any reason.

Bid Notice No.APSRTC/C&B -01/2019-20-MED Sd/- Chief Mechanical Engineer(C&B)

MARADU MUNICIPALITY
Maradu, Ernakulam-682304 Phone:0484-2706514, 0484-2706544

WINDOW ADVERTISEMENT

INV NO:1/2019-20 09/09/2019

WINDOW NO:-106919/2019-20

Invitation of expression on interest from the specialised agencies for controlled implosion (4 Buildings G+15 Floors with 320m2 each floor area) in Maradu municipality. Web publishing date 10/09/2019 10 am and invitation closing date on 16/09/2019 5 pm. The invitation letter available on www.tenderlskgkerala.gov.in

sd/-
Municipal Secretary

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University, Govt. of India)
East Coast Road, Uthandi, Chennai - 600 119
Tel: (044) 24530342

IMU/CC/PUR/SECURITY/2019 Dated:11.09.2019

Sealed tenders are invited under Two cover system, from the Contractors who satisfy the eligibility conditions for the following works:

Name of work & Tender No.	EMD & Cost of Tender Document	Last date for Submission & Date of opening
Tender for "Providing Security service at Indian Maritime University, Chennai Campus"	Rs.2,10,000/- & Rs.NIL	24.09.2019 up to 1100 HRS & 24.09.2019 At 1130 HRS
Estimated Cost: Rs.70.00 Lakh per Annum		

PRE-BID MEETING SCHEDULE: 13.09.2019 - 1100 HRS at Conference Hall 1st Floor, IMU-Chennai Campus.
The Tenders forms and other conditions / details can be obtained from IMU website www.imu.edu.in DEPUTY REGISTRAR

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS/e-TENDERS

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites tenders for the following works:-

- Tender No. T19P070206:** ICB Tender for Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 220/33 kV GIS Sub-station with complete Civil Works & Automation at Rajghat Power House, New Delhi (India) on Turnkey Basis.
- Tender No. T19P070191:** ICB Tender for Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 33 kV GIS with complete Civil Works & Automation including Dismantling work of conventional 33 kV Switchyard etc. at 220/33 kV Sub-station Okhla, Delhi (India) on Turnkey Basis.
- Tender No. T19P090392:** ICB Tender for Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 06 Nos. 66 kV GIS Feeder bays (Extension of existing GIS) alongwith associated civil work at 400/220/66 kV Sub-station Harsh Vihar, Delhi (India) on Turnkey Basis.

Last Date and Time for:

- Start Date & Time of Sale of Tender document: (12.09.2019 for SI. No. 1), (12.09.2019 for SI. No. 2), (12.09.2019 for SI. No. 3), 10:00 Hrs.
- Last Date & Time of Sale of Tender document: (31.10.2019 for SI. No. 1), (30.10.2019 for SI. No. 2), (31.10.2019 for SI. No. 3) upto 17:00 Hrs.
- Last Date and Time for submission of Bid: (01.11.2019 for SI. No. 1), (31.10.2019 for SI. No. 2), (01.11.2019 for SI. No. 3) upto 11:00 Hrs.
- Date of Pre-Bid conference: (25.09.2019 for SI. No. 1), (25.09.2019 for SI. No. 2), (25.09.2019 for SI. No. 3) at 11:30 Hrs.
- Date of opening of Bid: (01.11.2019 for SI. No. 1), (31.10.2019 for SI. No. 2), (01.11.2019 for SI. No. 3) at 11:30 Hrs.

- Tender No.T19P070182:** DCB Tender for Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 03 Nos. 100 MVA, 220/33/11 kV Power Transformers at 220/33kV GIS Sub-station Timarpur, Delhi.
- Tender No.T19P090381:** Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 04 Nos. 25 MVA, 33/11 kV Transformer including dismantling of existing 02 Nos. 20 MVA and 02 Nos. 16 MVA, Transformers with associated civil work at 220 kV Sub-station, Lodhi Road on Turnkey basis.
- Tender No.T19P070201:** Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 07 Nos. 100 MVA, 220/33/11 kV Power Transformers at various locations of DTL, in Delhi.

Last date for bid submission: (03.10.2019 for SI. No. 4), (07.10.2019 for SI. No. 5), (04.10.2019 for SI. No. 6) at 10.30 a.m.

For downloading of tender documents and further details please visit website **Delhi Govt website: <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>** (Tender ID No. for SI. No. 4, 5, & 6 are 2019_DTL_179881_1, 2019_DTL_178976_1, 2019_DTL_179874_1) respectively and DTL website: **www.dtl.gov.in** (Unique No. DTL-6891-090919, DTL-6892-090919, DTL-6890-090919, DTL-6893-090919, DTL-6889-090919, & DTL-6894-090919), respectively. PR/19-20/17

All Corrigendum/Addendum/Amendments/Date of Extension/Clarifications, if any, to the above e-tender would appear only on the above mentioned websites.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

EOI Notice

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited by Damodar Valley Corporation from eligible bidders for:

EOI No.	Description of Work	EOI downloading Period and Time
DVC/HQ/C&M/ CIVIL/NHP/EOI/ Consultancy	Consultancy services for Developing Flood Forecasting and Inundation Model (Decision Support System) from 12 Km downstream of Durgapur Barrage up to outfall of Damodar River (Amta and Mundeshwari Rivers) under NHP.	From 11.09.2019 at 12.00 Hrs. (IST) to 11.10.2019 at 11.00 Hrs. (IST)

For further details and to participate in the EOI, please log on to DVC website: www.dvc.gov.in and / or <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> Note : e-procurement Helpdesk No. +(91) 9831683690 & +(91) 8240124812 Int/12/Misc./19-20

JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (JIPMER)
(राष्ट्रिय एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान), चन्नीसरी नगर, पुदुच्चेरी
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006
Phone: 0413 - 2296022 Website: www.jipmer.edu.in Fax: 0413 - 2272067 - 2272735
No.JOSW/5(2)/2019 Date: 09.09.2019

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NAME OF WORK : "Outsourcing of 24/7 Housekeeping, Sanitation & Multi-Purpose Services including required Manpower, Machines, Instruments, Vehicles, Supervisory Staff, Protective items etc., for JIPMER, Puducherry & Karaikal."

Interested Expressions of Interest (EOI) (i.e., separate technical bid and financial bids) in conformity with detailed call notice are invited from service provider agencies/Firms having valid Registration Certificates (including registration with the Regional Labour Commissioner, EPF/ESI Registration, Service Tax Registration and PAN Card etc.,) with at least 3 years' experience in the relevant field are called for "Outsourcing of 24/7 Housekeeping, Sanitation & Multi-Purpose Services including required Manpower, Machines, Instruments, Vehicles, Supervisory Staff, Protective items etc., for JIPMER, Puducherry & Karaikal" for one year.

For downloading full text of the EOI and other terms and conditions, please visit <http://www.jipmer.edu.in/tender>

DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ADMN.), JIPMER

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH NOTIFICATION No.24/2019-RC

- This Notification is issued for 6 (six) posts in the cadre of District Judge (Entry Level) under Direct Recruitment.
- This Notification is issued in terms of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No.1867 of 2006, Dated 04.01.2007.
- Applications are invited for appointment to 6 (six) posts of District Judge (Entry Level) in the A.P. State Judicial Service under 25% quota to be made by Direct Recruitment in the following Manner :

ABSTRACT

OC - 4 (2W), BC-A - 1 (W), SC - 1 (W), Total - 6 (4W)

4. Further Details viz., Detailed Notification, Proforma Application are available in the web site of High Court of Andhra Pradesh and can be accessed at "hc.ap.nic.in" from 11.09.2019 onwards.

5. Filled-in applications in prescribed proforma together with enclosures of the candidates should be submitted in the office of the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat Buildings, Velagapudi, Guntur District on or before 25.09.2019, 5.00 PM.

L. V. SUBRAHMANYAM
Sd/- CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
DIPR 597/CL, Dt: 10-09-2019

Government of Rajasthan OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT SMS HOSPITAL, JAIPUR
(Sawal Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302001)
(Phone 0141-2518222 / 2560291, Email-ms.smshospital@gmail.com)
NOTICE INVITING BID (UBN No. M151920 SCRL0079)

Sealed Single Stage Two-envelope unconditional online Bids for Rate Contract for service provider are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the procurement of goods and services listed below, from manufacturers/importers/distributors/authorized dealers/stockists/bonafide dealers/Marketing Company/ Agents upto 5.00 p.m. on 25-9-19.

Sr. No.	Name of Services	Estimated Cost lakh	Amount of Bid Security	Bidding Document Fees (Rs.)	Bid Processing Fees (Rs.)
01.	Rate Contract for operation and maintenance services (CAMC) of various Oxygen plants for two years at SMS Hospital, Jaipur	200.00	4,00,000/-	1000/-	1000/-

Details of NIB, Bidding Schedule, conditions and Bidding Document may be seen on the website of the State Public Procurement Portal <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or e-procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and may be downloaded from there.

Medical Superintendent
DIPRC/7433

Trump abruptly fires hardliner NSA John Bolton

Strongly disagreed with many of his suggestions, as did others in the administration, the U.S. President said in a tweet

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON
U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, considered the most hawkish among senior Trump administration officials, left his post on Tuesday.

Mr. Bolton, the third National Security Adviser in the current administration, had a long list of differences with U.S. President Donald Trump on a range of security and foreign policy issues – including Iran, North Korea and Afghanistan, leading to his departure around mid-day on Tuesday.

“I informed John Bolton last night that his services are no longer needed at the White House,” Mr. Trump said in a tweet.

“I disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions, as did others in the Administration, and therefore I asked John for his resignation, which was given to me this morning. I thank John very

much for his service,” he said, adding that he would name a new NSA next week.

‘Different versions’
Mr Bolton’s account of his departure differed from that of his former boss.

“I offered to resign last night and President Trump said, ‘Let’s talk about it tomorrow,’” read a tweet from Mr. Bolton, that followed Mr Trump’s tweet.

“I will have my say in due course. But I have given you the facts on the resignation. My sole concern is U.S. national security,” Mr. Bolton is reported as saying in the *Washington Post*.

The differences between the two were known before Mr. Bolton took on the job in April 2018, with Mr. Bolton, an erstwhile UN Ambassador, taking a trademark hawkish approach to foreign policy in contrast to Mr. Trump’s isolationist and non-interventionist ap-



Revolving door: John Bolton, left, listening to President Donald Trump, far right, during an event in Florida. ■AP/FILE

proach. One month prior to joining the administration, Mr. Bolton, who is a declared proponent of regime change in Iran, wrote an op-ed calling for a pre-emptive strike on the country. Shortly after he took over as NSA, the U.S. withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the international deal to limit Iran’s nuclear programme. More recently, Mr. Bolton did not

reportedly support direct talks between Mr. Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

On North Korea, Mr. Bolton did not reportedly approve of the bonhomie between the regime’s leader Kim Jong-un and Mr. Trump, and on Russia, Mr. Bolton reportedly did not support Mr. Trump’s repeated calls for Russia to rejoin the G-7.

Last week, the differences

between Mr. Trump and his NSA came to the surface once more. The two men were at odds with each other on a settlement the U.S. was finalising with the Taliban and Mr. Bolton reportedly worked on Mr. Trump to stop him from closing the deal. Mr. Trump said on Monday that he had called off a last minute gathering at Camp David with the Taliban and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani after the Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack that killed 12 people, including an American soldier.

Approximately an hour before news of Mr. Bolton’s departure broke, the White House Press Office had said that Mr. Bolton, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin would address a joint press briefing, suggesting that Mr. Bolton’s departure was not anticipated. A White House official said that Mr.

Bolton had left the White House after Mr. Trump’s tweet and would not attend the press briefing, the Associated Press reported.

Mr. Pompeo and Mr. Mnuchin addressed the press on strengthening counter-terrorism designations, but ended up taking questions on their Mr. Bolton’s departure.

“I’m never surprised, and I don’t mean that on just this issue,” Mr. Pompeo said when asked if he was surprised by Mr. Bolton’s departure.

The Secretary of State had significant differences with Mr. Bolton, and he alluded to these during the press briefing.

Mr. Bolton’s departure could see an easing of tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

Asked if Mr. Trump could meet Mr. Rouhani at the United Nations General Assembly later this month, Mr. Pompeo replied, “Sure.”

U.S. President says talks with Taliban are ‘dead’

The insurgent group vows to fight on

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

The Taliban on Tuesday vowed to continue fighting against U.S. forces in Afghanistan after President Donald Trump said talks with the insurgents were “dead”, saying Washington would regret abandoning negotiations.

The renewed war of words between the two sides raised the spectre of violence in Afghanistan as Mr. Trump and the Taliban pledged to take the fight to each other following the precipitous collapse in talks.

“We had two ways to end occupation in Afghanistan, one was jihad and fighting, the other was talks and negotiations,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

“If Trump wants to stop talks, we will take the first way and they will soon regret it.”

The Taliban’s statement came hours after Mr. Trump said the U.S. was walking away from negotiations after nearly a year of talks that aimed to pave the way for an American withdrawal from Afghanistan following 18 years of war. “They are dead. As far as I am concerned, they are dead,” Mr. Trump said.

The announcement followed Trump’s dramatic cancellation of a top-secret plan to fly Taliban leaders in for direct talks at the Camp David presidential facility outside Washington.

Driving another nail into the coffin of what had appeared to be nearly finalised negotiations, Mr. Trump said a military onslaught on the guerrillas was at its fiercest level in a decade. “Over the last four days, we have been hitting our Enemy harder than at any time in the last ten years!” he tweeted.

After latest protests, Hong Kong leader tells U.S. not to ‘interfere’

‘Any change in economic ties will threaten mutual benefits’

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Hong Kong’s embattled leader warned the U.S. on Tuesday not to “interfere” with her government’s response to the city’s pro-democracy movement.

Protesters took to the streets again on Sunday, marching to the American consulate to call on Congress to pass a Bill expressing support for the pro-democracy movement. The proposed law could undermine Hong Kong’s special U.S. trade privileges by mandating regular checks on whether authorities were



Boo anthem: Pro-democracy supporters at a FIFA World Cup qualifying match at the Hong Kong Stadium. ■GETTY IMAGES

respecting the Basic Law that underpins the city’s semi-autonomous status.

But pro-Beijing CEO Carrie Lam said that any change to its economic relationship with the U.S. would threaten

“mutual benefits”.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong fans booed their own national anthem and sang in protest against Beijing’s rule at a World Cup qualifying match in Hong Kong stadium.

Spy who exposed ‘Putin’s role’ in U.S. polls extracted

The informant inside Kremlin was instrumental in charting CIA’s conclusion on Russia’s interference

JULIAN E. BARNES
ADAM GOLDMAN
DAVID E. SANGER
WASHINGTON

Decades ago, the CIA recruited and carefully cultivated a midlevel Russian official who began rapidly advancing through the governmental ranks. Eventually, American spies struck gold: the long-time source landed an influential position that came with access to the highest level of the Kremlin.

As U.S. officials began to realise that Russia was trying to sabotage the 2016 presidential election, the informant became one of the CIA’s most important – and highly protected – assets.

But when intelligence offi-



Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin. ■AFP/FILE

cials revealed the severity of Russia’s election interference with unusual detail later that year, the news media picked up on details about the CIA’s Kremlin sources.

CIA officials worried about safety made the ardu-

ous decision in late 2016 to offer to extract the source from Russia. The situation grew more tense when the informant at first refused, citing family concerns – prompting consternation at CIA headquarters and sow-

ing doubts among some U.S. counterintelligence officials about the informant’s trustworthiness. But the CIA pressed again months later after more media inquiries. This time, the informant agreed.

The move brought to an end the career of one of the CIA’s most important sources. It also effectively blinded U.S. intelligence officials to the view from inside Russia as they sought clues about Kremlin interferences in U.S. elections.

CNN first reported the 2017 extraction on Monday. Other details – including the source’s history with the agency and the cascade of doubts set off by the infor-

mant’s subsequent refusal – have not been previously reported. This article is based on interviews with current and former officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Officials did not disclose the informant’s identity or new location, both closely held secrets. The person’s life remains in danger, officials said, pointing to Moscow’s attempts last year to assassinate Sergei V. Skripal, a former Russian intelligence official. The Moscow informant was instrumental to the CIA’s most explosive conclusion about Russia’s interference: that President Putin ordered and orchestrated it himself. *NY TIMES*

ELSEWHERE



Will annex Jordan Valley if re-elected: Netanyahu
JERUSALEM
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a deeply controversial pledge on Tuesday to annex the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank if re-elected in September 17 polls. *AFP*

More than 30 pilgrims dead in Iraq stampede

BAGHDAD
More than 30 pilgrims died and dozens were injured on Tuesday in a stampede at a major shrine in the Iraqi city of Karbala on the Shiite holy day of Ashura. *AFP*

Soon, flights will link Jaffna to Indian cities

They will run from Palaly airport to Kochi, Mumbai and New Delhi

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka’s Civil Aviation Authority is gearing up to operate commercial flights from the island’s northern city of Jaffna to select Indian cities. Preparations are on to commence flights from mid-October, according to officials.

Flights will operate from Palaly airport in Jaffna Peninsula to Kochi, Mumbai and New Delhi. “We are working according to the directive from the Transport and Civil Aviation Ministry,” a senior official from the Civil Aviation Authority told *The Hindu*.

A “technical team” from

India is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka next week to study the facilities in the airport, according to Colombo-based official sources.

The development of the Palaly airport, some 20 km north of Jaffna town, has been on the cards for some years now. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has, on multiple occasions, spoken of proposals to upgrade the facility into an international airport, by expanding its current run way to accommodate large passenger aircrafts. An upgraded airport is expected to boost investment prospects in the war-battered Northern Province, in addition to facilitat-

ing greater trade activity.

Though possible grant assistance from India, for the “joint development” of the airport, was discussed in the past, no official agreement or document has so far been signed in this regard.

In September 2018, then Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation Nimal Siripala De Silva told Parliament that India had no role in the project, contradicting earlier messages that came out both from Colombo and Delhi.

Recently, Arjuna Ranatunga, who helms the Ministry now, said the government would spend LKR 3 billion to convert Palaly from a regional to an international airport.

News of flights from their city to India has brought cheer among Jaffna residents, particularly the business community. “This is a great initiative and very welcome in our city. The direct connectivity will certainly boost trade and open up more avenues for investment,” said K. Vignesh, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Yarpalanam [Jaffna].

However, he pointed to two “drawbacks”. “It seems that the initial flights will connect Jaffna to New Delhi, Mumbai and Kochi. But we would really benefit from a connection to Chennai,” he told *The Hindu*.

50 U.S. States launch probe into Google’s trade practices

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Attorneys-General of 50 U.S. States and territories announced on Monday that they were launching an investigation into Google’s trade practices and whether they are threatening competition and harming consumers.

“This is a company that dominates all aspects of advertising on the internet and searching on the internet,” Texas AG Ken Paxton, who is leading the coalition, said on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, here in Washington DC, on Monday. He also made it clear that at pre-

sent this was an investigation and not a lawsuit.

‘Stifled competition’

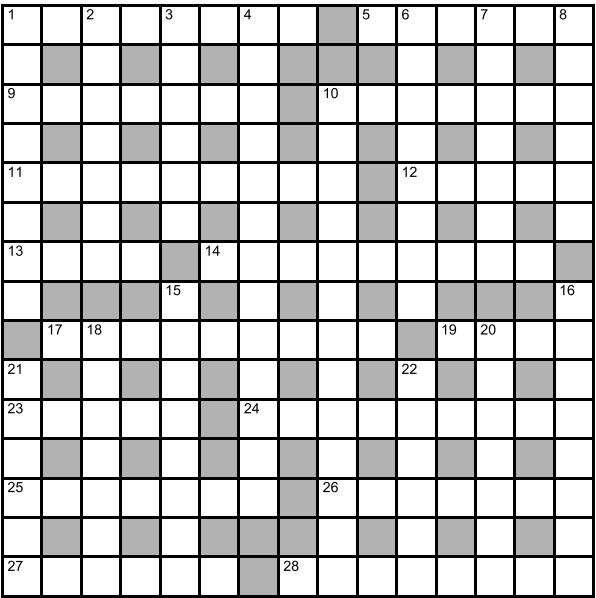
“There is nothing wrong with a business becoming the biggest game in town if it does so through free market competition,” Mr. Paxton said, adding that there is evidence that Google’s business practices stifled competition, violated users’ privacy, “put Google in control of the flow and dissemination of online information” and undermined consumer choice.

Louisiana Attorney General, who was also present at the Court on Monday, said there was an “absolutely ex-

istential threat in our virtual marketplace”. Alabama and California – the home of Google – have not joined the investigation, while Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have joined 48 states in the investigating coalition.

Regulators have turned up the heat on big technology companies and the Google probe is but the latest sign of this. New York will lead a group of eight States and the District of Columbia in investigating whether Facebook “stifled competition and put users at risk”, New York Attorney General Letitia James announced last Friday.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12727



■ ACROSS

- 1 I too roar vehemently for musical work (8)
- 5 Scratches daughter discarded are aplenty (6)
- 9 Bond provided female agent (7)
- 10 Diva upset with almost bitter counsellor (7)

- 11 Giant’s bad sign of acts of searches (9)
- 12 Amma’s first hint of things to come: home (5)
- 13 Indian film director’s beams (4)
- 14 Military-style decoration Oriental man and I stripped (9)
- 17 Manage a fight with small cars (9)
- 19 God of riches drops many odd rounds (4)
- 23 Harebrained woman goes for model that is cheap (5)
- 24 Cosies up, holding odd lead figure (9)
- 25 Praise good sizzling oil fry (7)
- 26 Told about dead repeatedly (7)
- 27 Swear about entertaining new solution (6)
- 28 Raise hospital section at the back (8)

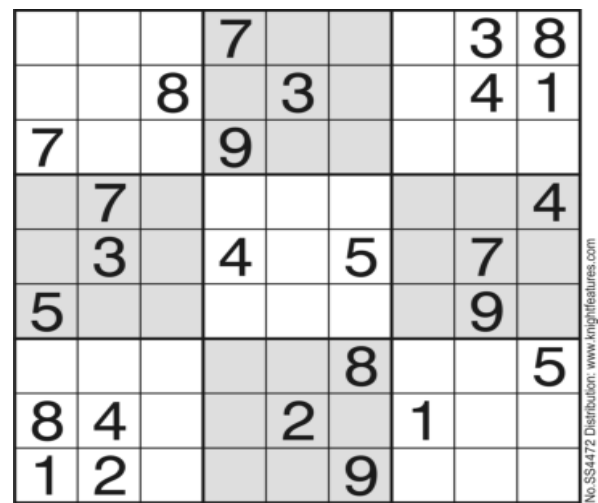
■ DOWN

- 1 They go around with other hungry, ferocious dogs (8)

(set by Gridman)

- 2 Cost of leaving – leaving luxury car in a US city (7)
- 3 God in different role as flier (6)
- 4 One who needn’t have to grow up to be intelligent (6,7)
- 6 Prevented old boy, oddly vain, with a boy (8)
- 7 Hal’s yell? (4,3)
- 8 Show or block? (6)
- 10 Went over a sailor, ill-mannered, in soldiers’ training area (7,6)
- 15 Admire song about daughter first – it’s elegantly feminine (8)
- 16 Inclined to let worried desi to plod around confusedly (8)
- 18 If you do, do you right a wrong sign? (7)
- 20 A limit I set for soldiers’ group (7)
- 21 Magistrate, lacking tear-off, is devious – disgrace! (6)
- 22 Given to jesting, Jack’s out of one’s eye (6)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12726

M I C R O B E P F E N N I G
E A M R A E F F I E
M U M M I E S R E F F A I N
E E Y T U S U G M T
N O R M A L I S E S W A M I
T A S I S N J I R L
O A S I S D O C T O R A T E
P I L F E R A G E S I D E D
E E V A A E E A
R O G U E W O N D E R F U L
S S D R E N R A
I M P L O R E O U T E O U S
S I R S U E C I
T A N G E N T P E R U K E S

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

3 8 1 2 5 4 6 9 7
2 6 4 9 7 1 3 5 8
5 9 7 8 6 3 4 1 2
9 1 2 5 3 6 7 8 4
6 7 5 4 9 8 2 3 1
8 4 3 1 2 7 5 6 9
4 2 9 3 1 5 8 7 6
1 3 6 7 8 2 9 4 5
7 5 8 6 4 9 1 2 3

FAITH

Kamban on Narasimha

Tamil poet Kamban, in his Ramayana, devotes a big section to the Lord’s avatara as Narasimha. This is his novel introduction in the story of Rama, for it is not to be found in Valmiki’s Ramayana, said M.A. Venkatakrisnan, in a discourse. Valmiki Ramayana talks of the Vamana avatara. Rama and Lakshmana accompany Viswamitra, to protect his yaga. When they see Siddhasrama, they are curious about it. Viswamitra tells them that it used to be the place where Vamana did penance, and he also tells the princes about the Vamana avatara. However, there is no such description of the Narasimha avatara, although Acharyas have pointed out that there is a subtle mention of the Narasimha avatara. When Vibhishana comes to Rama’s camp seeking admission, Rama wants to befriend him. But the monkey army is opposed to the idea, because they are afraid that the rakshasa may harm Rama. The Lord then tells them that none can harm Him. Even if all the yakshas and demons join hands and attack Him, they will not be able to hurt Him. He says He can kill them all with the tip of His fingers (angulya agrENa). Acharyas have taken this as a reference by Rama to His avatara as Narasimha, where He tore up Hiranyakasipu with His nails. Nampillai says this is a recollection by Rama of an earlier avatara of His, namely, the Narasimha avatara. While there is only an indirect reference to Narasimha avatara in Valmiki Ramayana, Kamban wrote 275 verses, recording the Narasimha avatara in detail. There are many Visishtadvaitic tenets evident in Kamba Ramayana. The very name Kamban is a name that Narasimha bears. Kamba means pillar and Narasimha was the One who emerged from a pillar. So, not only did Kamban display an affinity for the Lord’s Narasimha avatara but he also bore a name that belongs to Narasimha.

The return to the fold

To get former employees back on board, some companies run home-coming initiatives

LIFFY THOMAS

Priya Mathilakath quit as Titan's training head in 2008, only to be back on board in 2015. Priya's return to Titan illustrates a company policy to welcome efficient employees back into the fold, which also mirrors a growing corporate trend in India.

"Every time there is a voluntary exit and the performance of the employee was good, we make sure that the door is left open for them," says Priya, head HR (Retail and Corporate), Titan.

Active encouragement
There are companies that seem to be actively encouraging former employees to return to their fold.

Kronos, a workforce management company, has a dedicated section for them.

"Want to come back to Kronos? The door is open," reads a note. "If your ideal career opportunity knocks twice at Kronos, we invite you to answer the door. We openly welcome high-performing former employees to rejoin our workforce."

For its retail division, Titan runs an initiative called 'Ghar wapsi' (home coming) where the HR team reaches out to former employees when they are opening in a new region.

Ola has had more than 100 employees re-join the company over the years. A recent survey on these employees found that the entrepreneurial culture was the big draw. Top performing ex-employees are earmarked and HR teams reach out to them as and when a suitable opportunity opens up.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has a



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH RAVIKUMAR

section on its website – called 'HP Alumni' – where it invites employees who have left on superannuation or otherwise to connect with them for future opportunities.

Qualcomm also has an online section where it invites former colleagues to "communicate, exchange ideas, learn, and find opportunities".

MNCs like Accenture, Boston Consulting, Microsoft and Deloitte host events for their "alumni" to network.

Yogi Sriram, senior vice president (Corporate Human Resources) and Member of the Executive Committee, L&T, says the return of a former employee reaffirms the faith one has in a system.

"Talking about L&T, while people may leave for what they think is greener pastures, many feel homesick and come back. The L&T culture is difficult for any other company to re-

plicate," says Yogi, adding, "I am one of those who left and returned."

Hiring former employees is usually a win-win situation. These employees usually hit the ground running, which helps the company as it means less time spent on training. And they know company's culture well. A returning employee usually comes with new skill-sets and brings fresh perspectives.

"Hiring boomerang employees is cost-effective for the company," says Priya. A Glassdoor study says that hiring time is reduced by at least 50% when the new hire is a known candidate, says Priya.

Striking a balance

"There is the question if former employees have an edge over others when they are considered for a position. We have built-in evaluation techniques that are aimed at just this ques-

Hiring time is reduced by at least 50% when the new hire is a known candidate

tion," says Prince Augustin, executive vice-president, Group Human Capital and Leadership Development, Mahindra & Mahindra.

"Our company has had employees rejoin the organisation across levels and departments," he says.

Yogi Sriram says boomerang-hiring must be done carefully, taking care of the "fitment in grade and compensation".

"Other loyal employees should not get an impression that it pays to leave an organisation and come back on better employment terms. Due to this concern, at times, returning employees may end up coming back on a lower salary," says Sriram.

Fluid leadership is in

Leaders in corporate land today face Alice-like scenarios

PRINCE FREDERICK

"I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly," Alice replied very politely, "for I can't understand it myself, to begin with; and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing."

"It isn't," said the Caterpillar.

"Well, perhaps you haven't found it so yet," said Alice; "but when you have to turn into a chrysalis – you will some day, you know – and then after that into a butterfly, I should think you'll feel it a little queer, won't you?"

"Not a bit," said the Caterpillar.
– Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll



An illustration of the caterpillar and Alice by John Tenniel (circa 1900) PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

In Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, Alice meets a hookah-smoking caterpillar, who comes across as testy, prying and domineering.

The interaction between the two leaves Alice exasperated; and the readers, a tad wiser, that is, if they read into the text. In all likelihood, Carroll did not intend a leadership lesson. However, there is a takeaway from this chapter – aptly titled "Advice from a Caterpillar" – for any student of leadership. The message is particularly relevant to the VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) world we live in.

The caterpillar is persistent in his demand that Alice define herself. Alice considers it an existential impossibility. She has assumed many shapes and sizes in a day. The caterpillar seems to subtly point out to her that she is mistaking the changing exterior for the permanent essence.

It seems to be a commentary on corporate leadership as it exists today. Straightforward definitions of leadership are no longer possible. Most leadership styles look jaded; and in many situa-

tions, way off-the-mark. Leaders often slip into multiple leadership flannels to get through a day at work.

Let us see how the chapter ends.

Alice comes to accept the fact that her exterior will change by the minute, when she acts on the caterpillar's instructions on how to shed her height and increase it. It is a case of wisdom dawning on her as she begins to see events in their context. Today's leaders are swamped by a similar uncertainty, and to be effective, they may also have to act on the caterpillar's wisdom, just as Alice did. Applying this wisdom to corporate leadership in our VUCA word, leadership principles never change, but the leadership functions manifest differently, in keeping with the times.

The enduring core

"There are two dimensions to leadership qualities and competencies. One is the enduring core, which is the everlasting expectations from leaders, and then the other

engage with their rivals.

Take the globalisation filter, and leaders have to pay attention to sustainability, environment, trade barriers and so many other issues that have global impact. Beneath this adaptive exterior with all these filters, there is that enduring core with its unchanging demands.

This core shows that in any age, a leader has to be inspirational; lead from the front; align diverse stakeholders; and has to be ethical," says Ganesh Chella, co-founder and managing director, CFI.

Contextual intelligence

"When the external environment is stable, you could operate with fixed leadership models. In a VUCA world, you don't have that luxury. Leadership styles have to be used fluidly, because effective leadership is now largely defined by contextual intelligence. It has taken the place of cognitive intelligence, which worked before information explosion. Now, the amount of information a leader may have is accessible to a ten-year-old, thanks to Google. Leadership is now more collaborative than personality-oriented.

The directive leadership style, where you set the mission and get people to follow you, is now absurd. Centralised leadership as a model is dead. And, talking about our times, it is not so much about what leadership styles are best suited as about how to use a style in the right context. It is about having one's leadership antenna up and listening all the time," says Naresh Purushotham, chief mentor and co-founder, Crestcom India.

'Indian employees give high rating to bosses'

Eighty per cent of them give their superiors an 'A' or 'B' grade



Photo used for representational purpose

Employees worldwide like their managers, but seven out of 10 claim they can do their boss' job better. This was the key finding of a global study by The Workforce Institute at Kronos Incorporated and Future Workplace.

Five factors – communication, competence, empowerment, professional development and support – were taken into account for the study that covered 3,000 employees in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Mexico, the U.K., and the U.S.

According to a release, Indian employees are by far the most satisfied with their managers, with at least eight out of 10 grading managers an "A" or "B" in every category. French, German and United Kingdom workers are by far the most pessimistic about manager performance, as those countries ranked in the bottom three in every category surveyed.

Most of the Indian respon-

dents of the survey have rated their line managers high in competency, communication, hard-working, adept at handling performance-related issues and for setting an example in work-life balance.

Despite rating their managers number one in all categories, a whopping 95% of Indian employees still say they could do their boss' job better all of the time (47%) or some of the time (48%), said the release.

Managers in technology and professional services industries received highest marks in comparison to frontline managers (accountants, engineers, lawyers).

Employees in the technology (77%) and finance (70%) sectors say they have a strong relationship with their boss, followed by manufacturing (62%); education (61%); retail (61%); and professional services (61%). Over 90% of the workers say the manager-employee relationship is an important factor in remaining at their current job.

GENERAL

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A white Toyota Hilux pickup truck is shown on an assembly line. The truck is positioned in the center of the frame, facing forward. It has a prominent chrome grille with the Toyota logo in the center. The headlights are visible on either side of the grille. The truck is parked on a light-colored floor. In the background, there are other vehicles on the assembly line, and a person is visible on the right side of the frame. The overall scene is a factory setting.

Trimming stock: Most auto companies are cutting down production to reduce inventory at factories. ■ PAUL NORONHA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

MINI TEJASWI
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IN BRIEF



Cairn arbitration process may be protracted
NEW DELHI
U.K.'s Cairn Energy said the arbitration process against India on the imposition of a ₹10,247-crore retrospective tax demand is likely to be protracted. "Workload and the number of matters before the [three-member arbitration] panel have meant that the timetable for issuing the award will be more protracted than originally anticipated and the award is, therefore, unlikely to be before late 2019," the company said. PTI

Fraud-hit CG Power CEO quits from subsidiaries
NEW DELHI
Fraud-hit CG Power CEO K. N. Neelkant has quit from all the subsidiaries of the firm as investors mount pressure for his ouster for the alleged irregularities occurring under his watch, sources privy to the development said. Mr. Neelkant confirmed the development but said he believed that investors and lenders would not want him to step down from CG Power in the "best interest" of the company. PTI

Aptus Value Housing Finance raises ₹880 cr.
CHENNAI
City-based affordable housing finance company, Aptus Value Housing Finance has raised ₹880 crore via equity capital. "The fourth round of funding has been made during difficult times. It will be deployed to grow our loan book from the present ₹2,650 crore to ₹3,600 crore by March 2020," said M. Anandan, founder and managing director, Aptus Value Housing Finance.

'Truck industry to bounce back by 2021'

Sector sales dip 24% to 1.94 lakh trucks; India to be DICV's export hub for BS VI trucks, buses, says CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI
The Indian truck industry, which has been hit by the current economic slowdown, is likely to bounce back to growth by 2021, said a top official of Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV).
"From 2014 to 2018, sale of trucks [more than] doubled to 3.78 lakh units from 1.8 lakh units," said Satyakam Arya, CEO and MD, DICV.
"However, from the beginning of 2019, truck sales have been on the decline, due to several factors such as implementation of new axle norms, liquidity crunch and switchover to BS VI norms," he said.
Year-to-date, the industry had sold 1.94 lakh trucks, a drop of 24% compared with



Satyakam Arya, CEO & MD, right, with Rohit Bhan, VP, sales & marketing, DICV at a press meet on Tuesday. ■BIJOY GHOSH

the January-August 2018 period. "The market dipped in 2019 and will remain low key in 2020. Our growth will be in line with the industry

(2.3 lakh units to 2.5 lakh units). The year 2021 would see a growth of 15% (2.7 lakh units to 2.9 lakh units).
To a question, he said the implementation of a scrap policy would go a long way in arresting the decline. But, it called for the setting up of an authorised scrap centre with a mechanism to trade in scrap certificates.
Pointing out that non-availability of BS VI fuel was a major concern while pushing sales, he said DICV had urged oil companies to ensure that the fuel was made available from April 2020 onwards.
ready to transition our BharatBenz trucks and buses to BS VI by the April 2020 deadline. With this headstart, we will begin exporting India-built trucks by 2021-22," he said.
Mr. Arya said that DICV had invested ₹500 crore to localise its Euro VI technology for India, completed two million kilometres of testing, developed new facilities and 1,000 new parts, and had achieved localisation of more than 80%.
He also said India would become the global export hub for DICV's BS VI trucks and buses.
Depending upon the availability of BS VI fuel in India, DICV would officially launch an upgraded range of trucks and buses during the first quarter of 2020, he added.

Transition to BS VI
"Daimler's experience of already bringing 1.4 million Euro VI trucks and buses on roads means we are easily

India, ASEAN to review free trade pact in goods
To make it more business-friendly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI
India and the 10-member bloc of southeast Asian nations have agreed to review their free trade agreement, signed in 2009, to make it more business-friendly and boost economic ties.
The two sides also decided to constitute a joint committee for this purpose, according to a statement.
This was agreed upon during the meeting between economic Ministers of ASEAN and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal in Bangkok on Tuesday. They met for the 16th AEM-India consultations.
"The Ministers agreed to initiate the review of the ASEAN-India trade in goods agreement to make it more

user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses," a joint media statement issued after the meeting, said.
The Ministers tasked officials to work on the details of the review of the agreement and submit an update before the next ministerial meet.
Both the sides also received the recommendations of the ASEAN-India business council to further promote the potential of bilateral trade through the utilisation of the free trade pact as well as cooperation in some areas such as financial technology, connectivity, start-ups and innovation.
The India-ASEAN trade in goods pact came into force from January 2010.

Delhi HC rules in favour of Titan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU
The Delhi High Court has passed a decree in favour of Titan Company, granting permanent injunction against two individual sellers, Rohit Kumar Jain and Dharam Pal, as also e-commerce retailer Snapdeal, from selling counterfeit Titan- and Fastrack-branded watches, while granting costs of ₹1.5 lakh each.
The court on July 29 passed an order with respect to the suit filed by Titan against these sellers alleging that they were selling counterfeit Fastrack watches on Snapdeal.
The court also directed Snapdeal to file its written statement within the prescribed time.

Trustea plans to certify retail packs by September 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA
Trustea, a sustainability code and verification system for the tea sector, is planning to extend its certification programme from bulk tea to retail packs by September 2020, according to Rajesh Bhuyan, director, Trustea.
Working with small tea growers, estates and bought leaf factories since 2014, trustea has so far certified 620 million kg of Indian tea for sustainable production and compliance.
Its code has 11 'chapters' which encompass compliance with wage regulations and presence of chemicals as per plant protection

Trustea validates that tea is produced in a sustainable manner
laws, among other things. It works with tea industry to address key sustainability issues like food safety, stagnating yields, pest and disease control, wages, worker welfare and livelihood improvement of small growers.
"Trustea validates that tea is produced in a sustainable manner under three pillars – environment, safety and livelihoods," Mr. Bhuyan said, adding a traceability app would be launched as a pilot from October 1 to establish

the compliance level of a particular pack of tea.
This app is being developed mainly for the small tea growers, he said, adding that an agricultural advisory service has also been integrated into this app.
The pilot would be done in Assam, West Bengal and south Indian States. Over a quarter of the tonnage certified by Trustea is grown by small tea growers.
Mr. Bhuyan said that the Tea Research Association was brought in two months ago to provide field support to Trustea certification process. Action for Food Production (AFRO) was also an implementation partner.

'Clean energy producers can move NCLT for dues'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI
Flagging non-payment of dues by power distribution companies to renewable energy producers, Union Power Minister R.K. Singh has cautioned seven States, including Maharashtra and Karnataka, that the developers could approach NCLT against discoms to recover payments of around ₹5,355 crore.
Mr. Singh, in a letter, urged the chief ministers of these States to issue directions to their respective power distribution companies for clearing the dues of renewable energy firms in the next few days.
The power and new and renewable energy minister

Paytm in talks to buy stake in Yes Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI
Digital payments major Paytm is in discussions to buy stake in Yes Bank from co-founder Rana Kapoor, according to sources.
Sources privy to the discussions said Mr. Kapoor had held preliminary discussions with Paytm.
They said the structure of the deal would depend on the approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), given that Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma already owns a stake in Paytm Payments Bank.
Paytm declined to comment on the matter.
Mr. Kapoor and associated entities own a 9.6% stake in Yes Bank.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

A feast of articles and pictures on the just concluded, once-in-40-years, 48-day exposition of Athi Varadar and the fascinating history of Varadaraja Swamy Temple in Kanchipuram.



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VANGMAYI PARAKALA

For close to a decade now, the Greater Noida region has been seeing much ‘development’ – wider roads for smoother mobility between various pockets of the National Capital Region (NCR), and rapid campus construction to meet the growing demand for mushrooming universities. “How does one decide what is worth preserving?” asks Rupamajari Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor of Shiv Nadar University (SNU), recalling a question that kept popping up in her mind through her initial years on campus, when hostels and departmental buildings were still being built.

And so, in 2015, when a team headed by Jyoti Prasad Sharma, the head of the university’s Centre for Environmental Sciences & Engineering, and the School of Natural Sciences proposed to study the biodiversity of their area, she couldn’t have been happier. From 2016, a three-member team, meticulously studied and documented the flora and fauna of Chithara, a village that neighbours the campus. They followed the rules set out as part of The Biological Diversity Act 2002, which mandates that every local body needs to create and maintain a People’s Biodiversity Register (BPR). “The aim was to create a model biodiversity register for Chithara Panchayat,” says Sharma.

While this resulted in them publishing *Illustrated Flora: Part of Western Uttar Pradesh and Delhi NCR Region* recently, there was another “extraordinary corollary”, as Ghosh puts it, which came from this effort.

A chance discovery

Last year, when Sharma’s team – which also includes Amit Kumar Tripathi, a botanist and post-doctoral research associate, and Dr. Mohd. Ahmad, a technical assistant in the same department – was conducting a biodiversity workshop with the residents of Chithara, they noticed that lived-knowledge of what grew around them, was sometimes recollected from song.

Curious about this strong connect, Tripathi followed up with the *gram pradhan* to know more about Chithara’s folk-song culture. He in turn put him in touch with Shivaraj Singh who was well-known for his trove of knowledge of songs passed on for generations through the oral tradition. Singh had recently retired as a police constable.

At first he was hesitant in sharing more than what was needed – he had participated in the biodiversity workshop and thought that was that. But after about four months of Tripathi’s perseverance, Singh warmed up to the team, inviting



SONGS AND LETTERS SING

A four-year-old biodiversity project in Chithara village of U.P., has led a team of scientists to a treasure of folk culture

them to his house, sharing with them his then-nascent efforts in writing down all the songs he knew into a notebook.

That was the team’s breakthrough. They took the residents’ fledgling impulse to preserve their songs, their culture, and reached out to help them formalise it. At the team’s request, different communities of the village residents, each with their own set of songs for various occasions, gathered to perform for the purposes of documenting and archiving. “We just had the last such workshop earlier this week,” says Tripathi. This was with a group of Gujarati women. The documentation also includes songs of the Jatav, Koli, Brahmin, and Thakur communities.

The 300 songs they have documented during this last one year, through audio-visual recordings, include the genres of *Kissa* (stories from history), *Ragni* (special to these regions of Uttar Pradesh, where the stories have a mix of



prose and song, and no rhyme – the region’s own form of spoken word poetry), *bhajan* and *aarti* (devotionals), and a whole category of *geet*, which are specific to women’s songs. *Geet* would include compositions that are sung during weddings, child birth, the month of *saawan*, and even *mundan*, the hair-shaving ceremony of babies and young children.

The matter of pedagogy

Sharma, Ahmad, and Tripathi have already put together a draft of a book (titled *Traditional Knowledge: Folk Songs of Upper Doab Region of*

Uttar Pradesh, India) that classifies the various strands of Chithara’s folk song traditions. Even as they are readying themselves for a November launch of the book, Sharma says they are also hoping to compile their AV recordings into an accompanying CD. For the residents of Chithara, they have prepared a non-academic version of their research, with an indexed record of all of the songs.

In the meantime however, Tulika Chandra, an Associate Professor in SNU’s Department of English, with a background in linguistics, has also been studying the folk cultures of

A tune of their own Men of Chithara village in U.P. gathering to sing; the women, who hold separate sessions

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the university’s neighbourhood. From 2014-2016, she studied how the folklore and folk song traditions in Braj (a cultural region that overlaps with the political boundaries of Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra) are changing and adapting to a digital age.

She recounts how one of the women residents had recorded herself singing a song for child-birth, and sent it to her daughter, who’d just delivered a baby in another city – all this via a mobile phone. Chandra’s second project, which she began at the start of this year, looks at women’s voices and expression through the folk songs that’ve existed in and around Gautam Buddha Nagar, which is now called the “industrial hub of U.P.”

But as to why a team exclusively from the life sciences department went ahead with the Chithara project, which may have benefitted from the expertise of a team from a social-sciences department – especially since a robust one exists in-house – is not entirely clear. Sharma however stresses that the access and trust that his team members had already established with the residents of Chithara during the bio-

PEOPLE

In high demand

Eka’s Rina Singh is out with her winter collection, but she’s also got a second gig going



Last year, Rina Singh took a trip to Kashmir to explore the possibility of a collection. She found her inspiration through a family and their home in Aru village. Rina talks of the wooden house, with “green walls, a mustard carpet, burgundy pillars” that gave her current collection its jewel colours, used in uncommon ways: earthy teal with vintage rose, silver grey with a vegetable indigo, washed-down burgandy with forest green, for instance. “They hold the eye,” she says.

Fabrics are in blends of wool-cotton, wool-linen, and silk-linen with textured wool (made on a twill weave and treated thereafter). Kashmir was the backdrop, and she’s not shifiting her work to include heritage. It’s still her contemporary-wear easy-fit style, with the structure and colour making them winter-wardrobe worthy. “They’re darker, structured, leaner, but not masculine; they lean towards the feminine nostalgic,” she says, adding that spring-summer is relatively easier to plan for because it’s all about light-weight fabrics. Winter starts with the festive season, gradually slips into cool, and then cold weather.

There’s little embroidery, only seen in tiny details on buttons, or as a single paisley on a kurta. The spirit of the collection was inspired by the three sisters in the home in the mountains, who were very religious on the one hand, but also enjoyed Bollywood songs on their phones, on the other. The promotional material was shot with three models, with Rina’s imagination of how they’d behave if they shed their inhibitions.

The collection has overlays, dresses, pants, divided culottes. “There’s a lot of layering, both underlayering and overlaying. You’ll find a three-piece story, with a trouser, jacket, and long dress, or just trousers with a kurta, which can be bought as separates or together,” she says.

In fact, it’s the kurta, sans slits and the ‘traditional’ elements that has made it to Japanese brand’s Uniqlo launch in India. The lifewear concept marries Rina’s lived-in wear to create designs that are “accessible, casual, timeless. I come from a sentiment of Indian techniques. They come from technology. The emphasis is on clean, functional, minimal.” Uniqlo stores across Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines will stock her version of the kurta.

Of her learning from the collaboration, she says it’s a matter of work culture: “As Indians we are so used to doing things quickly, and to things going wrong. I can be working and the electricity can go off, so I need to have the ability to think on my feet. They do it thoroughly and precisely.”

Available at all Ogaan stores and at Ogaan.com; ₹3,200 upward
SUNALINI MATHEW

PRODUCT

An apple a day

Omorfee, a brand known for its organic self-care products, has recently launched its Green Apple face wash and Detox face pack. Created from ingredients such as apple proteins and organic volcanic ash, the face wash claims to help in detoxifying and is suitable for acne-prone skin. The face pack, which they say consists of volcanic ash, basil oil, activated charcoal and Vitamin E, is supposed to remove dead skin cells.

Available on Omorfee.com; upwards of ₹1,199

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in



FOOD REVIEW

A net cast too wide

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

The Japanese are respectful, meticulous, and obsessive in everything they do. It is for this reason that in Japan, so many chefs focus on doing one thing and doing it very well. This single-mindedness arises from the Japanese concept of *shokunin*, which indicates a devotion to the craft and an obligation to work your best for the welfare of the people.

Shokunin is ingrained in chefs even when they begin their apprenticeships.

When I read the menu at Kampai, which included sushi, baos, robata (barbecue), curry, ramen and

Hit and (mostly) miss, Kampai tries to be too many things at once

more, I feared that they had forgotten the concept of *shokunin*. Kampai does some things well; unfortunately, the list of things they get wrong is far longer.

The vibe: Confused, both in terms of design and energy. The restaurant boasts two private dining rooms near the entrance to the main dining hall, which have the traditional *horigotatsu* style, low tables with a recessed



No shokunin here Aburi Salmon Sushi, and Avocado Salmon tartare (inset) • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

floor beneath to stretch your legs. Thereafter things get confusing – I am not sure whether they want to be a club or a restaurant.

There is a vast bar on one side, with an elevated DJ booth next to it, and a line of curtained, semi-enclosed (and cramped) tables on the other side. The diners are a mix of office-goers, families with kids, and ‘foodies’.

Do try: The Chashu Pork Bun, which had the right fluffiness, crunch and sweetness; the Duck Gyoza with Hoisin Sauce which was bursting with flavour; the crunchy Enoki Sushi Roll which had the perfect ratio of rice to mushroom and mayo; and the Pineapple on Skewers with Teriyaki sauce, which was nicely caramelized, seasoned, and juicy.

The broth of the Tantanmen Ramen was excellent, but the noodles and accompaniments were disappointing.

Skip: Barring these, I found little joy. The Brie

cheese tempura sounded interesting, but was blobs of fried cheese with no taste or zing; the avocado and salmon tartare lacked flavour and was too warm; the non-veg sushi platter represented good value (₹2,100 for 18 pieces) but was sub-par, and the matcha tiramisu is a combination, which should never be attempted.

No joy with their cocktails either – they lacked balance and their viscosity was all wrong. The Ginza Mist, for example, a blend of sake, gin, yuzu, and plum, was so thick and still, it was insufferable.

Go with: Anyone who hasn’t experienced authentic Japanese food.

Space bar: 70 seats spread over 2,400 sq ft.

How much: ₹4,250 for two (sans alcohol).

Getting there: Worldmark I at Aerocity. Whilst there is ample parking, a ride sharing service is advised.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



FAIR

Office automation

An annual five-day stationery fair begins today. The fair offers stationery, office automation, and a range of art supplies from various brands across the world. These include Sakura, Tombow, Lihit Lab, Nichiban, Van Gogh, Schneider and Artbin. The fair also provides an opportunity for on the spot interactions.

VENUE: Hall No. 7, Pragati Maidan
TIME: 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.



FOOD

Onam feast

To mark the annual harvest festival of Onam, Zambar, Gurugram will have a Sadya menu will have 27 vegetarian dishes. The variety on offer includes Avial, Eriserry, Khichadi Beetroot, Mambazha Puliserry, Kootu Curry, Inji Puli, Parippu Curry, Sambar, and crunchy Nendran and Jackfruit Chips.

VENUE: Zambar, Ambience Mall, Sector 24
TIME: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Paintings

The ongoing solo exhibition titled, *Urban Dwellings*, showcases mosaic paintings by V. Ramakrishna at Triveni Gallery. In this show, the artist explores the city’s landscape like an insider, weaving pictures of the urban environment and creatively rendering it in an ornamentally enhanced stylisation.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg
TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



THALI

Onam fiesta

Celebrating the homecoming of King Mahabali, GRs Searock is offering an Onam menu. Their full-course Sadya meal will have Avial, (a combination of drumsticks, yam, raw plantain, carrots, potato and coconut), Mulakku Varuthathu, Parippu Vada, Manga Chammanthi, Upperi, Sarkaravaratti, Eriserry, and more.

VENUE: 3 & 4 Block L, Connaught Circus
TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight



DOCUMENTARY

Wildlife

IHC will screen the first episode of BBC One’s latest nature documentary, *Serengeti*. Directed by John Downer, this series follows the interconnected stories of thousands of iconic savannah animals over one year, and captures the animals’ daily lives and the emotional moments they face.

VENUE: Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.

The Bicycle Yogis

A group of Hatha yoga teachers has embarked this month, on a trip of approximately 4,000 kilometres from Kanyakumari to the Himalayas, teaching village schoolchildren yoga for free

SRAVASTI DATTA

Meet Hatha yoga practitioners – Ajay Mani Raj from Tamil Nadu, Shivanga Solberg from Norway, Annie Liebman of Oakland, California, and Jessica Zartler of Denver, Colorado, USA. They are part of Bicycle Yogis, certified under the Isha Hatha Yoga School under the 1,750-hour programme, and are travelling from Kanyakumari to the Himalayas, on bicycles. Along the way, they will teach yoga to village schoolchildren for free.

Speaking about the genesis of the idea, Ajay says: “I wanted to bicycle across India, from Kanyakumari to the Himalayas. Some people ask ‘Why not a motorbike? It would be much easier!’ When you are on a motorbike, you tend to miss a lot of things. I didn’t want to miss anything. I wanted to come in touch with as many people as possible. We are going into villages where yoga is a rarity.” Shivanga and Ajay studied Hatha yoga teacher training together in Isha Yoga Center in 2015. “We started talking about the idea for the tour with other teachers who eventually came on board.”

Considering India is a



A spiritual journey (Clockwise from above) The team, schoolchildren at HPF School, Ooty and a schoolgirl practising yoga at Gururji N & P School, KV Kuppam

• ANNIE LIEBMAN AND AJAY MANI RAJ

land of varied languages, cultures and lifestyles, how does the team plan to execute the tour? “Bicycle Yogis consists of four core members, who will ride bicycles the entire way, and one who will be riding a motorbike. Around 20-30 other supporting teachers will join us during different legs of the journey. Depending upon the final route, the journey should be somewhere between 4,200-4,500 kilometres,” says Ajay.

The core team varies from 25 to 30 people, says Ajay, “In Tamil Nadu, Yugadev from Cuddalore, and I will be conducting classes in Tamil. Likewise, when the team goes to Karnataka, there will be Isha Hatha Yoga teachers from there who will teach in Kannada. The same will happen in every

Cycle of Life

Each weekday during the journey, the Bicycle Yogis plan to cycle approximately 20-30 kilometres, teaching at two schools per day. The children will have one lesson and a review session, so they can continue to practise on their own during school hours after the Bicycle Yogis depart. In addition, the Bicycle Yogis will be talking with children about sustainability and the environment, and planting trees at certain points along their route.

State along the way.”

The team has already completed two shorter trials in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, and covered more than 350 kilometres, teaching 4,000 children.

Ajay says even though the tour will be an adventure, the primary intent is to share the joys of practising yoga. “We are all here as a team because of

yoga and meditative practices. Isha Hatha Yoga has impacted our lives, making us conscious, energetic human beings. We want to let the world know that life doesn’t have to be stressful.”

Shivanga adds, “If we take responsibility for how we are within ourselves, then we can create the life we want for ourselves. This can make life miraculous and we want to share this with people.”

Shivanga stresses they are focussing on schools because, “we want to impact and empower the younger generation. The yoga classes will last around an hour and include practices that are scientifically proven for the healthy growth and development of children. One of the practices called *Thoppukarnam* activates the brain and spine and helps balance the nervous system. We are teaching classes in schools which agree to provide at least five-15 minutes every day

for students to continue the practice on their own.” Ajay says in addition to teaching, they will plant at least one sapling in each school.”

The team will be cycling on hybrid bicycles. “The team attended a workshop, where they learnt a lot about the intricacies of repairing bicycles if we have any issues. We also chose bicycles that are stable enough to carry our luggage and handle different terrain. The cycles have 21-28 gears. There are small, medium and large bikes with saddlebags to handle more luggage,” Ajay concludes.

Interested schools can email them at thebicycleogis@gmail.com. Bicycle Yogis will be documenting their journey through blogs, photos and videos on social media.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



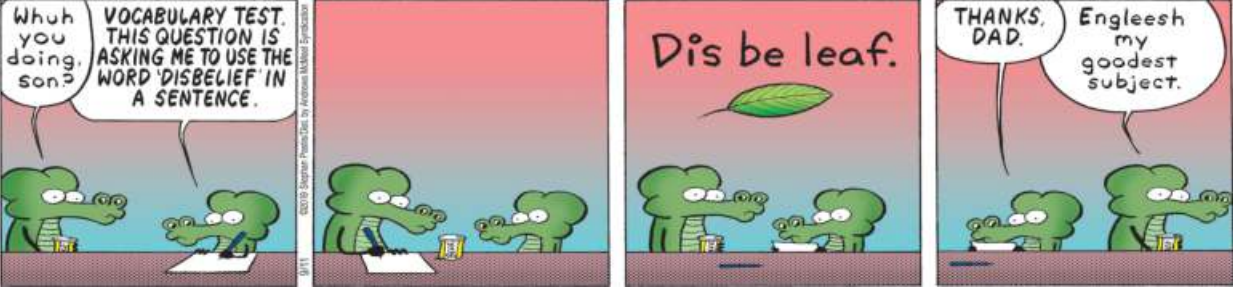
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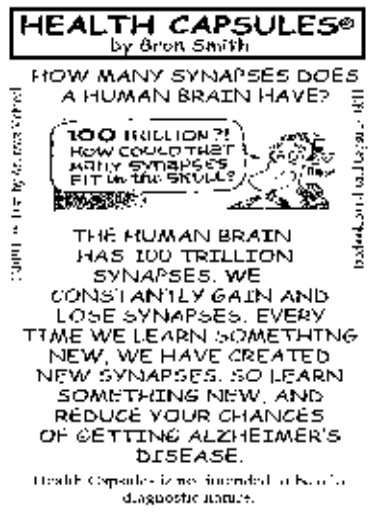
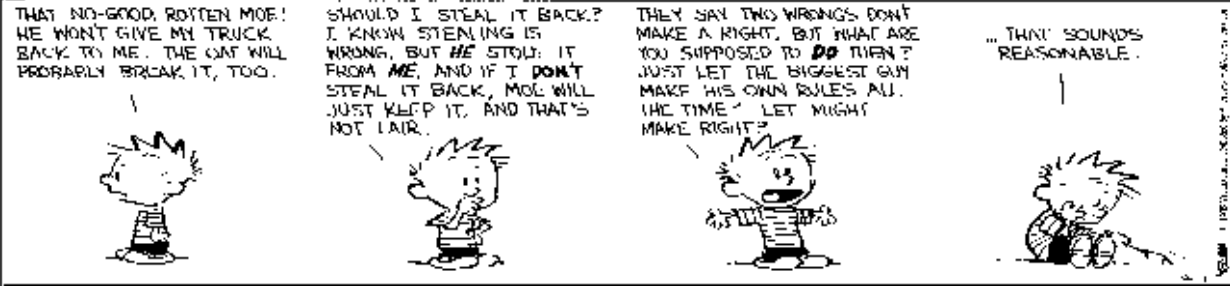
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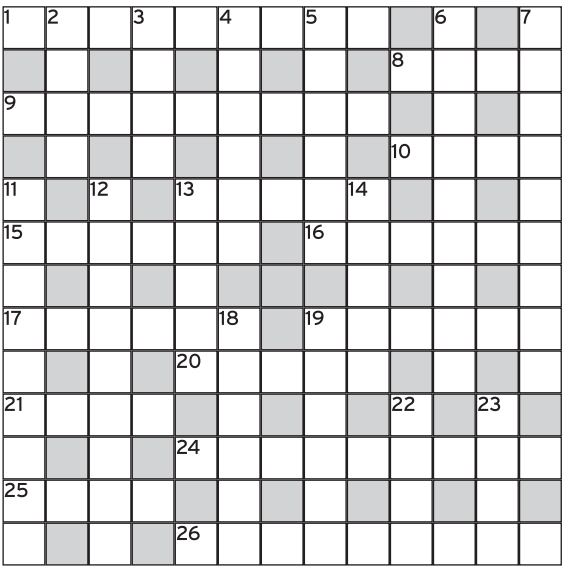
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13171



- Across
- 1 Quip (9)
 - 8 Sow's mate (4)
 - 9 Silly person (with sparrow's mind?) (9)
 - 10 Procreated (4)
 - 13 Racist or sexist? (5)
 - 15 Rescue (anag) (6)
 - 16 Shellfish soup (6)
 - 17 Strain (6)
 - 19 Spanish wine shop (6)
 - 20 Refuse with contempt (5)
 - 21 Give out (4)
 - 24 Priceless! (9)
 - 25 Sea eagle (4)
 - 26 Desire to travel (5,4)
- Down
- 2 Wading bird (4)
 - 3 Rise and fall of the sea (4)
 - 4 Knitted jacket that buttons up the front (abbr) (6)
 - 5 Bicycle-like device for sliding down snow

B	I	R	D	S	N	E	S	T	S	O	U	P
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Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 12, 2019.

Solution No. 13170

Gritty India holds Asian champ Qatar

Outstanding goalkeeping by Gurpreet Sandhu thwarts the host; the contest ends goalless

WC QUALIFIER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DOHA

A gritty India survived a wave of attacks from Qatar to hold the reigning Asian champion to a goalless draw and steal an unexpected point from its away match of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers here on Tuesday.

Despite playing without talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri – laid low by fever – India denied Qatar, which won the Asian Cup in January, despite the home side having more than a dozen shots on target.

India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who also wore the captain's armband, was the star as he single-handedly baulked Qatar in the Group E match.

India, which had suffered a heartbreaking 2-1 loss to Oman in its opening match on September 5 at Guwahati, now has one point from two matches while Qatar has four after its 6-0 win over Afghanistan in its first match here.

India next plays Bangladesh on October 15 in Kolkata.

Meagre shots

Qatar, ranked 62nd in the world, had more than two dozen shots out of which at least a dozen were on target. India, 103rd in the FIFA rank-



Heroic performance: With Qatar unleashing over a dozen shots on target, 'keeper Gurpreet Sandhu had a busy night, one which he handled with aplomb. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ings, on the other hand, had just two shots on the opposition goal in the entire match.

In the first half, India expectedly sat deep and defended its citadel.

The home side had at least half a dozen on-target shots and seven corners in the first half while India did not have any.

Gurpreet was a busy man

as he was called into action several times but he remained firm.

Fingertip save

Qatar captain Hassan Al-Haydos had two shots early into the match but Gurpreet was up to the task, including the brilliant fingertip save in the 20th minute.

A mispass from Mandar

Rao Desai in the 14th minute just outside the penalty box fell for Abdul Aziz Hatem, but his curling strike flew just above the crossbar.

A free header off Boualem Khoukhi in the 26th minute was also off the target as India escaped unscathed in the first half.

The result:

Qatar 0 drew with India 0.

Match stats		
Qatar		India
5	Fouls	8
30	Tackles	36
15	Corners	1
7	Offsides	2
27	Shots	2
0	Goalkeeper saves	11
68	Possession	32

This is All India Radio... now tune in to live commentary

BCCI announces a two-year rights arrangement

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Cricket fans will once again be regaled by radio commentary following an arrangement between the BCCI and the All India Radio (AIR).

The BCCI on Tuesday said, "in an initiative to enhance the coverage of Indian cricket and take it to the nook and corner of the country," it was announcing a two-year radio rights arrangement with AIR.

"This initiative will offer millions of listeners across India the opportunity to follow their favourite sport via live radio commentary," the BCCI informed. It will be specially beneficial for the visually-impaired fans.

The audio commentary will commence from the first

game of India's upcoming Payum T20I series against South Africa in Dharamshala on Sept. 15. In addition to international matches, AIR will also provide coverage for the men's and women's domestic tournaments. The two-year tenure starts on Sept. 10.

Move welcomed

The move was welcomed by the fraternity of commentators. "It is a wonderful news for us. Radio is a powerful medium and it reaches out to so many remote places. Following the game live from the ground adds to the excitement that a cricket fan experiences even at work," said Sachin Chatte, an English commentator based in Goa.

For Vineet Garg, a veteran

Hindi commentators, it is, "throw-back to those great times when cricket fans remained glued to radio or transistor sets. The commentator was the eyes and ears of the fans who would visualise the game from what they heard. My seniors like Anant Setalvad and Suresh Saraiya were pillars who contributed to popularize the game. Ace cricketers like Vijay Merchant and Lala Amarnath would enrich the commentary box with their wisdom."

The BCCI had had issues with the AIR related to rights and the latter was compelled to have the commentators work from studios.

"We did commentary only when India played overseas," said Chatte.

'We strongly believe in Quinton's leadership skills'

While praising du Plessis' contribution, Nkwe insists on infusing fresh blood in T20s

SA IN INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHARAMSHALA

South Africa's cricket establishment acknowledges Faf du Plessis' contribution both as a player and captain but it's about time it looks at the future with belief in Quinton de Kock's leadership skills, interim director Enoch Nkwe

said on Tuesday.

While du Plessis is still the captain of the Test side, Nkwe gave enough indications that South Africa wants to infuse fresh blood going into next year's World T20 in Australia. "We know where Faf stands as a captain and as a player. He has done great things for SA cricket. But we also need to look at what future looks like and we strongly

believe in Quinton, who is going to be leading the team going forward," Nkwe told reporters.

"We have a good leader and it's an opportunity to start building for the future."

While admitting that India

is a formidable team, Nkwe is confident that this upcoming three-match T20I series, beginning on Sunday, will help them assess the Proteas.

"It's the start of a new chapter and focus will be the coming series against India."

de Kock feels adaptability is the key and believes the track will help batsmen.

"I have been here before but haven't played here. The last time we were here, the wicket did play very well," he said.



Get, set, go: Interim director Nkwe says it's the start of a new chapter for South Africa. ■ AP

Knighthood for Boycott and Strauss



Geoffrey Boycott. ■ REUTERS



Andrew Strauss. ■ REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON England cricket greats Geoffrey Boycott and Andrew Strauss have been given knighthoods by Theresa May in her resignation honours list. Boycott and Strauss both received the honour for their services to sport after outstanding careers for England.

Boycott, 78, amassed 8,114 Test runs at 47.72 in an England career that ran between 1964 and 1982.

Strauss hit 7,037 runs in 100 Tests from 2004 to 2012. Strauss captained England to Ashes triumphs in 2009 and 2010-11, the latter campaign making him the first English skipper to win a Test series on Australian soil since Mike Gatting in 1986-87.

U Mumba has the measure of Titans

Ahmedabad to host PKL playoffs and final

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

U Mumba benefited from its captain Fazel Atrachali's excellent tackles and Arjun Deshwal's fine all-round showing to beat Telugu Titans 41-27 in a re-scheduled match of the ProKabaddi League here on Tuesday.

Mumba's seventh win pushed it up into the top-six on the points tally.

Titans banked on Siddharth Desai and Rakesh Gowda's praiseworthy efforts to lead 13-9 before Mumba, which was all out in the 13th minute, made a strong comeback. Mumba, which gave a close fight due to Rohit Balian's five points in the first

half, also cashed in from Deshwal's contribution. Deshwal, who had opened Mumba's account with a two-point raid, claimed Vishal Bhardwaj and C. Arun to help his side take a 15-13 lead.

However, Farhad Milaghardan conducted a successful raid with a bonus point to level the scores just before the break. Mumba applied pressure as Titans got all out within a minute of resumption. Fazel's solid tackling and its raiders' successful forays enabled Mumba to establish a seven-point lead at 25-18.

Titans rode on the Gowda's all-round performance to narrow the margin, but Mumba was boosted by Fa-

zel, who not only garnered five tackle points in the second half but also guided his team brilliantly to seize momentum at the right time.

Deshwal inflated his personal score to 10 while extending Mumba's lead. Titans, which experienced two more all outs, could never really recover.

EKA Arena at Ahmedabad will host the two eliminators, semifinals and the grand finale from Oct. 14 to 19.

The result: U Mumba 41 (Arjun Deshwal 10, Rohit Balian 7, Fazel Atrachali 6, Sandeep Narwal 4) bt Telugu Titans 27 (Rakesh Gowda 7, Siddharth Desai 4, Farhad Milaghardan 4, Vishal Bhardwaj 4).



Inspiring: Fazel Atrachali, right, led from the front for U Mumba on Tuesday. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

When romance and results unite, it is special



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Forget the back story, cynical sports editors would repeat in the old days, judge a team purely by its performance on the field. Were the players good enough to score runs, good enough to take wickets and hold catches? Did they score at least one run more than their opponents at the end of the match? That's all that matters. Don't romanticise origin stories. If someone had to walk barefoot to school and began by throwing stones at distant objects, that is interesting but not crucial to a team's success.

Yet, sports without romance is incomplete. In fact, sport is romance. Scores and results are important, of course, but they aren't everything. Often the struggle, and the sheer improbability of a group playing together is the more interesting aspect of the competition. And when romance meets performance, the joy is complete. Afghanistan's elevation to the highest reaches of cricket is perhaps the most romantic story in contemporary sport.

No real tradition

They imbibed the game in refugee camps while their country was at war. They have no real tradition in the game like the other members of the Commonwealth. A quarter century ago they had fewer than 30 people who played cricket.

Their players have been shot, their first national hero, Mohammad Nabi, was on a cricket tour when his father was kidnapped back home. Nabi, 34,

has spent half his life in refugee camps. He announced his retirement from Test cricket before the start of his country's third Test which they won this week in Bangladesh. A gifted off spin bowler and a hard-hitting batsman, Nabi, a gentle, articulate man, is unique in other ways too. He is the only player to hit the first ball he faced in both innings on his First Class debut for six.

Wonderful gesture

As Rashid Khan picked up his eleventh wicket of the match to bring Afghanistan victory – their second in three Tests to match the early record of Australia – he took off in the manner of the modern bowler, running across the field. Then he collected himself, and found he was closer to the dressing room than his teammates. At this moment, Rashid, 20, the youngest Test captain ever, chose to wait till senior man Nabi caught up, and gestured for him to lead the team in. It was a wonderful gesture, a tribute to both men and testimony to how much more Afghanistan had learnt about the game beyond batting and bowling.

Rashid Khan is already their best-known player, their richest, and easily their finest bowler. In three Tests he already has 20 wickets, five-plus in his last three innings. Afghanistan lost their debut match against India, but beat Ireland and the more experienced Bangladesh. But the format of the new World Test championship, where only nine of 12 teams earn points, means they might not play as much Test cricket as they deserve to.

Test hero Rahmat

Rashid apart, the team's Test hero is Rahmat Shah, who made his country's first century, after having made 98 and 76 in the earlier win against Ireland. He is 26. Afghanistan players graduate from the Under-19 levels to the A team,

like their counterparts in other countries. "The game is becoming increasingly structured," wrote Tim Wigmore in *Second XI: Cricket in Its Outposts*, adding, "There are 80 grounds in Afghanistan, and more than 50 turf wickets."

All this sounds perfectly normal till you realise just what it means for a country to have achieved it despite having been at war since 1979 when the Soviets moved in. Hillary Clinton put it in perspective when she said, "If we are searching for a model of how to meet tough international challenges with skill, dedication and teamwork, we need only to look to the Afghan national cricket team."

It is possible that Afghanistan has emerged as everybody's second favourite team after their own.

On-field performance

So much for the romance. What of the performance on the field of play? In ODI, they have played 123, won 59 and lost 60; in T20 it is 49 won versus 22 lost in 71 matches. There is something about white ball cricket that seems to suit their approach which favours risk-taking over safety-first, and lays greater store by the unorthodox. That they made the switch to Test cricket without too much trouble is merely one more astounding fact about a team that deals in astounding facts.

The early wins mean Afghanistan ask to be judged on their game rather than on history and the past. At some point in the evolution of teams in sport, the focus shifts from what was considered improbable to what is seen as possible. This usually takes time.

Afghanistan, despite their poor showing in this year's World Cup, have earned the right to be treated as an international team without condescension. And that has been their greatest achievement in a decade of international cricket.

The opening conundrum

Panchal, Abhimanyu on the radar; will Rohit get a new lifeline?

TEAM SELECTION

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

India may have justified its top ranking by returning from the West Indies with optimum points in its maiden assignment of the World Test Championship.

However, as the national selection panel sits down on Thursday to select the squad for the home Test series versus South Africa, M.S.K. Prasad & Co. will be in a dilemma on how to resolve the opening combination conundrum.

Despite Virat Kohli's men having triumphed in its last three Test series in the last 12 months – a rare series win in Australia sandwiched between home and away victories versus West Indies – opening combination has been far from being stable during this period.

Five batsmen tried out

Ever since the selectors and the team management decided to look beyond Shikhar Dhawan after the series in England exactly a year ago, the Indian team has tried out five batsmen as openers.

What's worse is none of the four opening combinations has worked. The first-wicket stand averaged 28.07 in the 14 innings over the last 12 months.

Starting trouble



	Inn	Runs	HS	Avg.
K.L. Rahul	12	195	44	17.72
Mayank Agarwal	7	275	77	39.28
Prithvi Shaw	3	237	134	118.50
M. Vijay	4	49	20	12.25
Hanuma Vihari	2	21	13	10.50

STATS FROM OCTOBER 2018

Once the selectors moved on from the combination of Dhawan and M. Vijay, K.L. Rahul was supposed to step into the role of the senior opener. However, let alone leading the charge, the Karnataka batsman has struggled to even maintain his place in the team. His State-mate Mayank Agarwal, who debuted in Australia, has looked the most assured willow-wielder at the top of the order.

With Rahul running out of time, Dhawan and Vijay not in contention and Prithvi Shaw serving doping suspension, it would be interesting to see if the national selectors decide to blood in a specialist opener for the South Africa Test series, set to begin in Visakhapatnam on Oct. 2.

Priyank Panchal and Abhimanyu Easwaran have been knocking on the doors

of the selectors for more than two seasons now. While Panchal, the Gujarat captain, has the experience and a mature head on his shoulders, Bengal's Abhimanyu has been in sensational form for India-A and in the Duleep Trophy.

However, if the selectors, in consultation with the team-management, decide to present Rohit Sharma the role of the Test opener, then both Panchal and Abhimanyu's wait for the India jersey will be prolonged.

Considering Rohit's exceptional run in the World Cup – he scored a record five hundreds as an opener – a section of the selectors and the team-management feel Rohit should be asked to open in Tests as well.

It would be interesting to see if the Mumbaikar gets a new lifeline for his topsy-turvy Test career.

Jalaj and bowlers give India-A victory push

South Africa-A, struggling at 125 for five in the second innings, trails by 14 runs

SA-A IN INDIA

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After a rearguard fightback by Jalaj Saxena and Shardul Thakur with the bat, the India-A bowlers put the hosts in command by reducing the visitors to 125 for five at stumps on the second day of the unofficial Test match at the Sports Hub here on Tuesday.

The 100-run eighth-wicket stand between Jalaj Saxena (61 n.o.) and Shardul Thakur (34) gave India-A a handy lead of 139 runs after its first innings ended at 303.

All at sea

In the second innings, the South Africans were all at sea on a wicket which started helping the slow bowlers generously.

However, it was again the medium-pacers Mohammed Siraj and Shardul who shook South Africa early by dismissing the openers Pieter Malan (4) and Aiden

Markram (4) cheaply. But Zubayr Hamza (44) played with freedom and showed the technique to survive on the pitch until Ricky Bhui pulled off a brilliant reflex catch in the slips off Gowtham to end his stay. It was left to Heinrich Klaasen (35 batting), who was dropped on 32, and Wiaan Mulder (12 batting) to survive an anxious final hour to push the match into the third day.

Joining forces

In the morning, the South Africa-A bowlers bounced back to reduce India-A to 199 for seven, before Jalaj and Shardul joined forces to thwart the South Africans. Ankeet Bawane fell early to Marco Jansen but both Shubman Gill (90) and K.S. Bharat (33) played fluently to add 44 for the fourth wicket.

But Dane Piedt produced the best ball of the India-A innings to clean up Shubman Gill when the batsmen looked set for a century. The loopy off-break beat

Gill in the flight and ball cannoned on to the stumps through the gap as the batsmen lunged forward.

Sustained aggression

Then fast bowlers Lungi Ngidi and Lutho Sipamla, in a sustained spell of aggression, broke the back of the Indian middle-order.

First, Ngidi had Shivam Dube (8) caught down the legside by 'keeper Klaasen. Then, Sipamla had the well settled Bharat edging a catch to Hamza in the slips and then yorked Gowtham for a duck.

Jalaj, who opened his account after 40 balls, changed gears when the tired South African bowlers offered him loose deliveries.

However Ngidi trapped Shardul in front and Piedt, with a double strike, hustled the end.

The scores:
South Africa-A — 1st innings: 164.

India-A — 1st innings: Rituraj Gaikwad b Jansen 30, Shubman Gill b Piedt 90, Ricky Bhui b Ngidi 26, Ankeet Bawane b Jan-

sen 6, K.S. Bharat c Hamza b Sipamla 33, Shivam Dube c Klaasen b Ngidi 8, Jalaj Saxena (not out) 61, K. Gowtham b Sipamla 0, Shardul Thakur lbw b Ngidi 34, Shahbaz Nadeem st Klaasen b Piedt 0, Mohammed Siraj st Klaasen b Piedt 0; Extras (b-7, lb-4, nb-4): 15; Total (in 87.5 overs): 303.

Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-106, 3-133, 4-177, 5-194, 6-199, 7-199, 8-299, 9-303.

South Africa-A bowling: Ngidi 16-3-50-3, Sipamla 15-5-46-2, Jansen 15-3-59-2, Piedt 25.5-4-84-3, Mulder 9-2-32-0, Muthuswamy 7-1-21-0.

South Africa-A 2nd innings: Pieter Malan b Siraj 4, Aiden Markram c Bharat b Shardul 4, Zubayr Hamza c Bhui b Gowtham 44, Khayelihle Zondo c Bharat b Nadeem 10, Senuran Muthuswamy lbw b Nadeem 4, Heinrich Klaasen (batting) 35, Wiaan Mulder (batting) 12; Extras (nb-2, b-8, lb-2): 12; Total (for five wkts. in 35 overs): 125.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-14, 3-38, 4-52, 5-94.

India-A bowling: Siraj 6-1-18-1, Shardul 7-1-28-1, Nadeem 9-3-13-2, Dube 4-0-14-0, Gowtham 6-1-28-1, Jalaj 3-0-14-0.



Course correction: Jalaj Saxena's composed, unbeaten half-century amidst a flurry of wickets gave India-A a handy lead. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mehuli on target

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Mehuli Ghosh was in superb form as she tamed strong fields in the women's and junior events in air rifle in the sixth National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, here on Tuesday.

In the women's final, Mehuli delivered a 10.8 each on the last two shots to beat qualification topper Shreya Agrawal by 0.8 point.

In the junior event, Mehuli shot 252.2 and outclassed Khushi Saini by 3.4 points.

In men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, Anhad Jawanda topped with 31 hits in the final, and beat Olympian Gurpreet Singh by five points.

In men's rifle 3-position event, Parul Kumar with 458.3 beat Satyendra Singh by 1.8 point. Chain Singh took the third place.

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar won the junior event with an authoritative performance.

Not taking part in Worlds: Tejaswin

ATHLETICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

High jumper Tejaswin Shankar has conveyed his inability to compete in the World Championships to be held in Doha from September 27, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said on Tuesday.

In a communication to the AFI on Tuesday, the US-

based Tejaswin said he was in his off-season and not in jumping shape yet and hence declined to compete in Doha.

Though he missed the qualifying standard (2.30m) by two centimeters, the 20-year-old Delhi athlete made the grade by virtue of being among the IAAF Top Performance List as he is ranked 39th in the world.

We are one of the strictest federations when it comes to anti-doping: Norman

HI CEO happy being behind the scenes and co-ordinating

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

For someone considered all-powerful in Indian hockey, Elena Norman is content being a 'project manager' and a co-ordinator for the federation.

The Hockey India CEO, in an interaction with *The Hindu* on Tuesday, admitted it was easier for her to act tough as a non-native to get work done but wished away any suggestions that she was the main decision-maker for the sport in the country.

"I am more than happy being behind the scenes and co-ordinating work from all around to make sure things function smoothly.

"I am lucky to have a great team to work with, people who have been together for almost five-six years, but I am more of a manager than anything else.

"It is a lot more than people realise and I have neither the inclination nor time to get into stuff that is being handled perfectly fine by the experts," she said.

Easier to work

Given that Australia is considered the Holy Grail for sports and the often-derided bureaucracy in India, it was a surprise when Elena declared that it was actually easier to work here.

"I would think it is as good or bad as anywhere else. To be honest, I believe it is actually easier to get work



Tough talk: Elena Norman says she is lucky to have a great team to work with. ■R.V. MOORTHY

done here, even if the exact on-paper procedures are not always followed," Elena said.

She was also proud of the fact that Hockey India was one of the few federations that has had little trouble with the Sports Ministry or SAI over years.

"The kind of discussions we are having now is refreshing. There is a lot of emphasis on transparency and streamlining of process including getting ACTCs online, managing clearances etc.

"We have already done ours in May. We constantly upload our camp and tour details on the NADA database as part of the whereabouts clause.

"Till June, the rules required both team and individual whereabouts of two players each from men and women (in the RTP) but now

the FIH has conveyed that only team details are needed. We write to NADA before every camp and competition.

"In fact, there is a certificate that FIH provides to players for attending presentations on anti-doping, valid for two years.

"These are done routinely and every player needs to have a valid certificate to be eligible for an FIH tournament! We are one of the strictest federations when it comes to anti-doping," she said with pride.

Asked if there was one thing she wished to change, Elena was thoughtful.

"Six months ago, I would have said maybe a little more work on development of coaches and knowledge. But we are doing it now but yes, we could have started much earlier," she signed off.

Clinical Nihal punishes Cori

Goes into day two with a 1-0 lead; Hari and Adhiban, too, post wins

WORLD CUP CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU
KHANTY-MANSIYSK (RUSSIA)

Teen sensation Nihal Sarin pulled off a clinical win against Jorge Cori in 57 moves to take a 1-0 lead in the two-game Round One of the World Cup chess championship here on Tuesday.

P. Hari Krishna and B. Adhiban were the other winners and need only a draw on Wednesday to move into the second round.

Vidit Gujrathi, M. Karthikeyan, Abhijeet Gupta and Aravindh Chithambaram were involved in drawn encounters.

However, Surya Shekhar Ganguly, S.L. Narayanan and S.P. Sethuraman lost their games.

Nihal, at 15, the youngest member of the Indian contingent, punished Cori for a series of sub-optimal moves after the Peruvian handed over the initiative on the 18th move.

Leading to the 40th move, both players could not filter out the best available options, but Nihal reinforced his grip.

Cori resigned when Nihal threatened to trade his rook for a bishop and polish off the queen-side pawns.

Pleased

"I am pleased with how

things went and also happy with the quality of the game. Will try to repeat that tomorrow [Wednesday]," said Nihal after the victory.

The results (round 1, game 1): Yuri Gonzalez Vidal (Cuba, 2552) lost to P. Hari Krishna (2746); Vladimir Fedoseev (Russia, 2664) bt Surya Shekhar Ganguly (2658).

M. Karthikeyan (2617) drew with Ernesto Inarkiev (Russia, 2693); Aravindh Chithambaram (2609) drew with Michael Adams (England, 2694).

David Anton Guijarro (Spain, 2674) bt S.L. Narayanan (2611); Eduardo Iturrizaga Bonelli (Venezuela, 2626) lost to B. Adhiban (2639).

Alan Pichot (Argentina, 2600) drew with Vidit Gujrathi (2718); Abhijeet Gupta (2609) drew with Anton Korobov (Ukraine, 2679).

Nihal Sarin (2610) bt Jorge Cori (Peru, 2676); S.P. Sethuraman (2624) lost to Tamir Nabaty (Israel, 2658).



Nihal Sarin. ■FILE PHOTO

Hamilton-Rosberg rivalry simmers on

Trouble began when they started battling for honours at Mercedes

FORMULA ONE

S. DIPAK RAGAV
MONZA

Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg have known each other since they were kids coming through karting and junior formula and were often teammates.

However, their friendship quickly ran into rough weather once the two were at Mercedes fighting for the title and between 2014 and 2016 the duo had numerous clashes on track.

And recently Hamilton threw shade on Rosberg after the 2016 champion came under fire from Max Verstappen for his comments as TV pundit.

Rosberg criticised Verstappen's move son Kimi Raikkonen in the Belgium GP which ruined both their races.

The Dutchman, in turn, hit back at Rosberg calling him the new Jacques Villeneuve, the 1997 World Champion, who is known to make some surprising contrarian comments on current driv-



Prickly: Though Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton started off as pals in their junior days, they are anything but that now. ■GETTY IMAGES

ers. During one of the pre-race interviews before the Italian GP, Verstappen was quoted as saying, "I think he is the new Jacques Villeneuve.

Contrary opinion

Villeneuve has changed quite a bit, but it seems that Rosberg now and again wants to give a contrary opinion."

Referring to Verstappen's dig, Hamilton posted on his Instagram story "this has me in stitches."

When asked about it on Saturday, Hamilton had

some interesting words saying, "I don't really think much of it, to be honest. I thought it was really funny — "I think Max is generally a really funny guy so I was cracking up when I saw it. ...unfortunately drivers become irrelevant when they retire and ultimate have to hang on to utilise other people's light to keep them in the light and so... but that's the way of sport, I guess."

(The writer was in Monza recently at the invitation of Petronas).

Prajnesh enters pre-quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
SHANGHAI

Top seed Prajnesh Gunneswaran defeated James Ward of Great Britain 6-4, 7-6(3) to progress into the pre-quarterfinals of the \$81,240 Challenger tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

The results:
\$81,240 Challenger, Shanghai:

Second round: Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt James Ward (GBR) 6-4, 7-6(3); Yasutaka Uchiyama bt Arjun Kadhe 7-6(4), 6-3; Tatsuma Ito (Jpn) bt Sasi Kumar Mukund 6-4, 6-4.

First round: Hua Runhao (Chn) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Divij Sharan & Saketh Myneni bt Steven Diez (Can) & Teymuraz Gabashvili (Rus) 7-5, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF, Tabarka, Tunisia: Men, first round: Lorenzo Bru-

netti (Ita) bt Ajay Pruthvi Nema-

Women, first round: Lisa Pigato (Ita) bt Niditra Rajmohan 6-1, 6-1; Bhuvana Kalva bt Britanny Collens (US) 7-5, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Cairo: First round: Sathwika Sama bt Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Angelika Shapovalova (Rus) & Avika Sagwal bt Hla El-Sakka & Nada Fouad (Egy) 6-2, 7-6(3).

Will it be smooth sailing for CoA?

BOARD MATTERS

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

The head of the Committee of Administrators (CoA), Vinod Rai, made a categorical statement to a cable television channel recently that his three-member committee comprising former India captain Diana Edulji, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Ravi Thodge and himself would demit the day the BCCI elections are conducted.

The CoA has initiated the process and set a timeline for the BCCI AGM and elections culminating on Oct. 22.

The CoA was appointed at the instance of the Lodha Committee and after the BCCI failed to implement the reforms in the given time between four and six months after the apex court order of July 18, 2016.

Panel's observations

The Lodha panel noted in its status report that "the directions of the apex court were

ignored, actions were taken by the BCCI to present a fait accompli to the Committee, the directives issued by the Committee were breached and the BCCI repeatedly took steps to undermine its authority of the Committee and the Court with several statements and actions which were grossly out of order and that would even constitute contempt".

The apex court, in its order of Jan. 2, 2017, also made a significant statement that "the Committee of Administrators shall also ensure that the directions contained in the judgement of this Court dated July 18, 2016 are fulfilled and to adopt all necessary and consequential steps for that purpose."

After its appointment, CoA has been supervising the administration of the BCCI and also given a number of directions to facilitate the implementation of the Lodha reforms.

It has put in place the Indian Cricketers Association, recently clarified the dis-

qualification rules, appointed the electoral officer and issued a timeline for the AGM and elections on Oct. 22, apparently after consulting the amicus curiae in the case, senior advocate P.S. Narasimha.

The CoA has also been involved in prodding the the BCCI members to get their act together in the aspect of amending its Constitution and getting it registered. So far 21 are on board.

In January 2017, the Supreme Court removed the then BCCI president Anurag Thakur and secretary Ajay Shirke.

The court had said that Thakur was obstructing and impeding the implementation of the cricket reforms.

Will it be smooth sailing for the CoA?

While Rai is confident, a few BCCI members also believe that it's time the elected members take charge of the BCCI. As of now, it appears that only the Supreme Court can stay the AGM/elections.

BADMINTON

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

The newly crowned World champion P.V. Sindhu, the chief guest at PNB MetLife Junior badminton championships here, was oozing with confidence and brimming with joy.

The status of world champion is a testament to her rigorous hard work in the last three-four months. After losing five finals, Sindhu was disappointed, but she credited this success to her diligent efforts in every aspect of her game and mental strength.

"Hard work is the only success mantra, it takes years to achieve what you dream of. I have had my share of ups and downs. Wins make you confident, but losses provoke you to come back stronger," she said.

Influential coach

The 1994 Asian Games gold

medallist Kim Ji-hyun has been an influential coach in Sindhu's development. She was a tactically much-improved player in the Championships in Basel this year.

Sindhu had words of praise for her coach. "Under the guidance of Gopi Sir (P. Gopi Chand) I have been training with Kim. It's not just one particular stroke, it's about perfecting every stroke and her impact has been great. We have worked a lot on the front court, back court and defence," Sindhu said.

Sindhu played with the young kids at the venue, encouraged them and advised them to never give up in life in whatever they do. She stressed that parents should encourage their kids in whatever sport they play.

Sacrifices must be made

She also indicated that there are many sacrifices one had to make, be it parents or the player. She quoted the exam-

ple of her parents who shifted with her to a house closer to the Gopi Chand Academy so that she could commute easily and have more time to train.

Two bronze and two silver medals in the previous Championships made her a challenging opponent but not a winner. This time she was passionate to win the gold. The status of a world champion comes with an added pressure, every time when you step on the court.

"After losing the previous two finals I was dejected, but never lost hope. It was a much awaited win. The responsibility to win and pressure to perform will be extra now. Everyone knows my strategy, they are going to mark me. So, now every time I step on the court, I have to come up with a new strategy."

She signed off by saying that kids needed tournaments like these to perform and gain confidence.



Champions in the making: P.V. Sindhu asked parents to encourage their children in whatever sport they play. ■PTI

TV PICKS

PKL: STAR SPORTS 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 P.M.

IN BRIEF



Injured Umtili adds to Barcelona's fitness woes

BARCELONA
Barcelona centre-back Samuel Umtili has suffered a bruised foot while on international duty with France and could miss this weekend's clash with Valencia, the injury-plagued Spanish champion said on Monday. Ernesto Valverde's men, who host Valencia on Saturday, are already without star forwards Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez due to foot and calf problems. Winger Ousmane Dembele is also sidelined with a hamstringing issue, while full-back Nelson Semedo has a sprained ankle. **AFP**

India bags three bronze in Asian jr. soft tennis

NEW DELHI
Aniket Patel won the bronze in the under-18 boys' section in the Asian junior soft tennis championship held recently in Bulacan, Philippines. In the under-18 girls' section, Aadhyia Tiwari and Tushita Singh won the doubles bronze medal behind Japan and Thailand. There was a third bronze medal for the Indian team from Ragasi in the under-15 girls event. Harshang Khodadhara and Pramod Singh Thakur were the coaches with the Indian team.

We must guard against complacency: Reid

India plays Russia on Nov 1 and 2 and the winner books a ticket to Tokyo

HOCKEY

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU
The Indian men's hockey team had huddled up in a room at the SAI complex here on Monday to watch the telecast of the FIH Olympic Qualifiers draw, held at Lausanne (Switzerland).
The players were relieved when it was announced that they would face World No. 22 Russia, the weakest team in Pot 1. The two other teams in Pot 1 – Pakistan (World No. 17) and Austria (World No. 20) – could have posed sterner tests. Russia is the preferred opponent, considering that India (World No. 5) had whipped Russia 10-0 in the FIH Series Final in Bhubaneswar earlier this year.
But any sense of complacency vanished when coach Graham Reid got up to address the room.
“Coach Reid said that we must not underestimate any team. He said that Russia will be just as desperate to qualify for the Olympics as we are, so we must work our socks off to defeat them.

Focused
“We are now focused purely on Russia – we will watch their match videos and be thorough with our preparation,” regular skipper Manpreet Singh said here on Tuesday.
The two teams face each



Chalking out the plan: India coach Graham Reid discusses strategy with Manpreet Singh at the SAI in Bengaluru. ■ASHWIN ACHAL

other in a two-legged tie, at Bhubaneswar, on November 1 and 2. The winner will seal a spot in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics main draw.
Before this crucial tie, the Indian team will tour Belgium – sure to serve as great preparation.
“Belgium (World No. 2) is an all-round unit, good in both attack and defence. It will be a very useful tour for us to assess our strengths and weaknesses,” Manpreet said.
Not a big gulf
Reid, meanwhile, stressed

that the 10-0 victory over Russia does not imply that there is a big gulf in quality between the two sides.
“We played Russia in Bhubaneswar in April, when it was very hot. The Russians struggled to cope with the heat; they won't have that problem when we meet in November.
“This is the point I made to the team yesterday. We must guard against complacency. I really hate complacency.
“If I see any complacency in the run up to the qualifier, I will stomp it out. We must

focus on preparing as best as we can, and treat Russia with respect,” Reid said.
There was a chance that India could have faced Pakistan, in what could have been an exciting, high-stakes Olympic Qualifiers affair. Reid, for one, is pleased to have avoided a high-profile clash.
“Playing against Pakistan could have been very exciting, but I think it (the hype and anticipation) could have also been distracting.
“The last thing you want in an Olympic qualifier is distractions,” Reid said.

Devika to lead India-A

NEW DELHI:Devika Vaidya will lead India-A for its tour of Bangladesh and the Emerging Asia Cup in Sri Lanka. **The squad:** Devika Vaidya

(Capt.), S. Meghana (Vice-capt.), Yasika Unatia, Tejal Hasabnis, Tanushree Sarkar, Smarn Dil Bahadur, Nuzhat Parveen, R. Kalpana, Manali

Dakshini, Kshama Singh, Anjali Sarwani, Minnu Mani, Sushree Dibyadarshini, T.P. Kanwar and Rashi Kanojia.

Azad slams DDCA for attire contract

‘I understand no tender was called & guidelines were flouted’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Former Test allrounder Kirti Azad has raised objections at the manner in which the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) gave “an undeserving company” the contract for providing the playing attire. In a communication to the DDCA president Rajat Sharma, Azad alleged that the concerned company had been awarded a contract for ₹45 lakh without proper procedure.



Kirti Azad. ■FILE PHOTO

His job of picking the coaches in various age-categories for the forthcoming season.
Azad had pointed out a few cases of players not from Delhi being appointed as selectors. He also highlighted examples of players with a Conflict of Interest issue getting into various posts as selectors or coaches.
In reply to all the allegations by Azad, Sharma had assured, “I have forwarded your concerns and suggestions to the CAC. You will appreciate that all cricket-related decisions are being taken by the CAC consisting of internationally acclaimed cricketers, as per the Supreme Court guidelines and new constitution. I am sure they will address the issues raised by you in your mail.”

No tender was called
“Recently, a contract for cricket attire has been given to a newly set-up company for approx ₹45 lakh. Three vendors were called and a so-called best price was arrived at. I understand that no tender was called and the

Knotty Ash primed to repeat

MYSTERY: Knotty Ash, who is in fine fettle, may score an encore in the H.H. Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Memorial Trophy (1,400m), (postponed from September 5) the chief event of the races to be held here on Wednesday (Sept. 11). False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.
1. ECLIPSE PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 1:30 p.m.: 1. Eudora (6) Madhu Babu 62, 2. Even Money (8) Chetan G 61.5, 3. Poker Queen (4) Ajay Kumar 61.5, 4. Felix Legion (10) Janardhan P 61, 5. Vijaya Dhruva (11) Rahil Akhtar 60.5, 6. Safe Bet (3) Rajesh K 57, 7. Archive (1) Chotu Jaiswar 55.5, 8. Italian Stallion (2) L. Prashant 55, 9. Star Binder (5) C. Umesh 51.5, 10. Zaalima (12) R. Manish 51.5, 11. Micron Yaacow (9) Dhebe 51 and 12. Ela Harika (7) Arshad 50.
1. STAR BINDER, 2. SAFE BET, 3. ITALIAN STALLION
2. J.H. FOLEY MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 2:00: 1. Turf Magic (6) Srinath 60, 2. Spirit Of London (4) Rajesh K 59.5, 3. Unbelievable (8) S. Manohar 59.5, 4. Attorney General (12) Sai Vamsi 58, 5. Al Dorado (7) C. Rohith 57.5, 6. Queen Of Turf (10) R. Shelar 57, 7. Export Quality (3) Tauseef 56, 8. Kir Royale (2) Arshad 56, 9. Order Order (9) Rahil Akhtar 56, 10. Tzar (5) T.S. Jodha 55.5, 11. Amazing Skill (1) M. Prabhakaran 54.5 and 12. Beond Reach (11) Nazerul 51.
1. TURF MAGIC, 2. TZAR, 3. SPIRIT OF LONDON
3. KUMARADHARA PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45, 2:30: 1. Rare Rhythm (4) T.S. Jodha 60.5, 2. Dean's Gal (3) Ramandeep Bal 60, 3.

Marco Polo (2) Srinath 59.5, 4. Naval Wrestler (1) N. Jodha 57, 5. Radiant Treasure (12) A. Imran 56, 6. Star Holiday (10) Vipin K 55.5, 7. Airvelo (5) Arshad 55, 8. Dreams United (1) Sai Kiran 55, 9. Festive Star (9) Madhu Babu 61.5, 10. Royal Design (7) C. Umesh 53.5, 11. Track Striker (8) Nazerul 53.5 and 12. Streaming Gold (6) Trevor 53.
1. STREAMING GOLD, 2. MARCO POLO, 3. RARE RHYTHM
4. J.H. FOLEY MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3:00: 1. Checkmate (2) Rajesh K 62.5, 2. Mulholland (3) Rajesh Babu 61.5, 3. Mint (10) Azfar Syeed 61, 4. Nikka (5) H.M. Akshay 60.5, 5. Take A Bow (7) Sai Vamsi 60.5, 6. Travieso (8) Rahil Akhtar 59.5, 7. Gypsy (6) Nazerul 59, 8. Super Success (12) T.S. Jodha 59, 9. African Emperor (1) N. Jodha 58, 10. Roosevelt (9) Shiva Kumar 57.5, 11. Lord Hsley (11) S. Manohar 57 and 12. Cantabria (4) Arshad 56.5.
1. SUPER SUCCESS, 2. MINT, 3. CANTABRIA
5. H.H. SRI CHAMARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 75 & above, 3:30: 1. Southpaw (2) S. Shareef 63.5, 2. Master Of Universe (5) Srinath 62, 3. London (10) R. Shelar 60, 4. Constantine (12) Dhebe 58.5, 5. Star Carnation (1) Chetan G 58, 6. Korol (4) Sai Kiran 57.5, 7. Saint Petersburg (8) Trevor 57, 8. Courage (9) Antony 56.5, 9. Areca Legend (11) I. Chisty 53.5, 10. Aseir (6) Darshan 52.5, 11. Maduro (3) Arshad 52.5 and 12. Bora Bora (7) T.S. Jodha 51.5.
1. COURAGE, 2. AISIR, 3. SAINT PETERSBURG
6. H.H. SRI KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY

Big win for Springfield (Manipur)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Springfield School (Manipur) beat Govt School (Arunachal Pradesh) 8-1 in the Subroto Cup boys' (under-17) international football tournament here on Tuesday.
The results:
Pool A: Springfield School (Wanjiang, Manipur) 8 (Ajit Kumar 3, L. Jackson 3, Arun, Anano) bt Govt. Secondary School, Motum (East Siang, Arunachal Pradesh) 1 (Oktering Megu).
Sainik School (Imphal) 4 (L. Rameshchandra 2, Romen 2) bt Vishvas Nav Sharda PS, Bhuna (Fatehabad, Haryana) 2 (Sagar, Vangh).
Pool B: Tripura Sports School 3 (Shil, Apajit, Darlong) bt Sainik Awasiya Mahavidyalaya (Nepal) 1 (Abhishek).
Mamta Modern SSS, Block H (Vikasपुरी, New Delhi) 1 (Fahad) bt SAI, NSEC (Salt lake, Kolkata) 0.

A gold rush for India

Host dominates with 29 top prizes on concluding day

CHESS
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
As anticipated, India won 14 out of 16 gold medals at stake in the classical time-format and finished with a haul of 125 medals from the inaugural Western Asian youth chess championship here on Tuesday.
Uzbekistan's Abdimalik Abdusalimov (under-20) and Kazakhstan's Abilmansur Abdikhair (under-16) walked away with the other gold medals even as India swept 41 out of 48 medals at stake.
In the blitz format that followed, India again won 41 medals, including 15 gold, 13 silver and 13 bronze. Over the three time-formats, India finished with 44 gold, 41 silver and 40 bronze medals, way ahead of Uzbekistan with three gold, a silver and a bronze.

Brijesh Yadav wins a bruising opener

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
EKATERINBURG (RUSSIA)
India was off to a fine start in the World men's boxing championships with Brijesh Yadav (81kg) out-punching Poland's Maleusz Goinski in a brutal opening-round contest here on Tuesday.
Brijesh, a silver-medallist at the India Open and the Thailand Open earlier this year, didn't just defeat Goinski 5-0 but also left him with a wound on his head in the first and only bout of the day for India.
Egged on to be the aggressor by the Indian camp, Brijesh more than made up for his lack of pace with the power of his punches.
His rival, on the other hand, let slip a confident start and was barely able to stand when the final bell rang.
Standing counts
Goinski faced two standing eight counts during the bout and needed medical attention for a gash on his head that left him with a bloodied face.
With Tuesday's win, Brijesh advanced to the round of 32 where he will square off against Turkey's Bayram Malkan.
Amit Panghal (52kg), Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and Ashish Kumar (75kg) have all received first-round byes.



Dominant: Brijesh Yadav was ruthless against Poland's Maleusz Goinski. ■TWITTER.COM/@BFI_OFFICIAL

No question of feeling pressure: Rani

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU
The Indian women's hockey team (World No. 9) will face high expectations when it takes on USA (World No. 13), in the FIH Olympic qualifier at Bhubaneswar, on November 1 and 2. A victory in the two-legged tie will give the Indian women a third appearance at the Olympics (after 1980 and 2016).
For skipper Rani Rampal, the key lies in enjoying the occasion and overcoming the nerves associated with a big occasion. “There is no question of feeling pressure; it is about being excited. We must remain cool, and stick to our plans. We will play in front of our home fans, which will work to our advantage. The crowd will act as the 12th player for us. We will use the positive energy of the crowd. We have the belief that we can do well,” Rani said here on Tuesday.
It was Rani who scored the equaliser when the two teams last met, in the 2018 World Cup. Rani explained that the Indian side has considerably improved since, pointing to the victorious campaign at the recent Olympic test event where India defeated the likes of Australia and Japan.
“We put up consistently good shows in the test event, and we will carry that confidence against USA. Each player knows her role very well, and when every individual does her part, we will

find success,” Rani said.
Coach Sjoerd Marijne believes that the upcoming tour of England will help the side prepare for the tricky outing against USA.
“We play five matches against England. The timing of the tour is great, as England is a physical team, similar to the USA,” Marijne said.
On what to expect from USA, Marijne said, “USA is a physical team, but we can match them. We feel confident. It doesn't matter who we play; we are just happy to know who we are playing against. Playing in front of our home crowd at Bhubaneswar will be a first for some of our girls, but I see it as an advantage.”

Schumacher in Paris for cell therapy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS
Stricken seven-time Formula One World Champion Michael Schumacher is in Paris' Georges-Pompidou hospital for cell therapy surgery, according to French daily *Le Parisien*.
The Paris hospitals department, contacted by AFP, refused to confirm or deny the news citing medical privacy laws. But according to *Le Parisien*, the 50-year-old German is in the cardiovascular department overseen by surgeon Philippe Menasche, described as a



Schumacher. ■REUTERS
‘pioneer in cell surgery against heart failure’. Schumacher will receive stem cells to obtain an anti-inflammatory effect throughout his system.
Schumacher was struck down by a skiing accident that snapped his helmet in December, 2013.

Rained out

AHMEDABAD: Rain washed out play in the National series junior tennis tournament, organised by the Altevool Waske Academy, on Tuesday. The under-18 and 16 boys' and girls' events will resume on Wednesday.

Argentina in last four

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DONGGUAN (CHINA)
Argentina, led by veteran Luis Scola, crushed Serbia 97-87 to enter the semifinals of the FIBA Basketball World Cup here on Tuesday. In another quarterfinal, Spain prevailed over Poland 90-78.
The results (quarterfinals): Argentina 97 (Scola 20, Campazzo 18, Garino 15) bt Serbia 87 (Bogdanovic 21, Bjelica 18, Jokic 16); Spain 90 (Rubio 19, Fernandez 16, Hernangomez 14) bt Poland 78 (Slaughter 19, Waczynski 15, Sokolowski 11).

Golf honour for Hero's Pawan Munjal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
Hero MotoCorp Chairman and Managing Director Pawan Munjal will be inducted into the 2019 Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame later this year for his support to the sport in India and around the world.
The induction ceremony will be held on November 6 at the 2019 Asian Golf Awards Gala Banquet at at DLF Golf & Country Club.

Ronaldo rewrites men's junior 200m

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI
India continued its dominance on day two of the Track Asia Cup cycling championship.
Ronaldo Laitanjam broke the junior Asian record of men's junior 200m time trial event in the qualifying round at the Yamuna Velodrome, IG Sports Complex here. He clocked 10.065 seconds and shattered the previous record held by China's Liu Qi who had completed the race in 10.149 seconds in 2018.
India added three more medals to its medal tally. Venkappa Shiva won one more gold when he claimed the 3km Men's Juniors individual pursuit.
Nikita Nisha won the qualifying round of junior women's with a timing of 11:945s and gave the host hope for gold in the final.
It was double joy for India when Elangbam Devi and Irungbam Devi gave a silver-bronze finish in the elite women's 3km individual pursuit race. Punam Chand captured the silver in the elite men's 4km individual pursuit event behind Malaysia's Emam Firdaus Mohammad Zamri. Dmitry Potapenko of Kazakhstan bagged the bronze.
Esow Alben finished second behind Tsz Chun Law of Hong Kong in the men's 200m time trial.